SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 27 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

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## THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **8:30 a.m.** Canada faces Sweden in the women's curling gold-medal match. Jennifer Jones' rink has a chance to win Canada's first women's Olympic curling gold since 1998.
- **12 p.m.** Canada and the U.S. clash for women's hockey gold for the fourth time. Canada has won the last three gold medals and already beat the U.S. in the preliminary round.
- **12:30 p.m.** Rosalind Groenewoud will go for the inaugural gold in women's ski halfpipe.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

## When your beloved beast leaves you a bit deceased

The story behind owning a lethal animal PAGES 14 & 15

## 'Crazy' like a ludicrously strong fox!

Georges St-Pierre maintains his obsessive compulsive disorder was key to earning wins in the octagon PAGE 26

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

# Cops nab 10 in sex-trade bust

**Project Home for Christmas.** Officers take several underage sex workers to safety

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Mohamed Wehelie of Toronto
CONTRIBUTED

Anthony Putzu of Brampton
CONTRIBUTED

York Region Police (YRP) announced Wednesday the recent arrests of 10 men in a series of investigations into human trafficking and the sex trade.

Police laid more than 100 human trafficking, drug and pimping charges against nine men — four of them accused of pimping underage girls. A 10th man, Mohamed Wehelie, 28, of Toronto, was the only accused not charged with human trafficking. He stands accused of sexually assaulting a sex worker whom he found online.

Det. Sgt. Peter Casey, of the drugs and vice unit, highlighted the arrest of Anthony Putzu, 21, of Brampton. He faces 12 different charges relating to the alleged trafficking of two victims, including one who is 16 years old. The charges include human trafficking, forcible confinement, assault with a weapon and living on the avails of a juvenile prostitute.

"Our investigators fear there may be a number of other victims out there in relation to this accused and hope they have the confidence and the trust to come forward to investigators," he said.

The YRP also announced the results of Project Home for Christmas, an initiative in which vice officers look for sex workers who are minors or forced or coerced into the trade.

The YRP has taken this approach to human trafficking for years. Officers will look for ads online — typically of sex workers that appear young or new to the trade — answer the ad, meet the worker and offer to help.

In Project Home for Christmas, officers approached and interviewed 31 sex workers, 10 under the age of 18, said Casey.

"When they were interviewed, one of the questions asked of them was: 'How old were you when you entered the sex trade?' and sadly, the average age answered by the 31 interviewed was 14 years old," he said.

All 10 of the underage sex workers identified by police were able to go home or to a place of safety as a result of police intervention in December, he said. However, he could not say if all 10 remained out of the sex trade today.

VICE OFFICERS HOPE GOVERNMENT KEEPS UNDERAGE SEX WORKERS IN MIND AS IT REWRITES PROSTITUTION LAWS, PAGE 4

**Disturbed**

"It's alarming for us to see the numbers of how young these women — actually, they're not women, they're girls — are when they enter the trade."

Det. Sgt. Peter Casey

## SLEIGHING FOR KEEPS

**Canada's bobsled pilot Kaillie Humphries, right, and brakewoman Heather Moyse celebrate with family and friends after their gold-medal win at the Sliding Center Sanki in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, on Wednesday. For more Olympic coverage, go to pages 39-41.** JOHN MACDOUGALL/GETTY IMAGES

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# Augimeri named TTC chair

**Transit.** Councillor's priorities are more provincial funding, downtown relief line

Veteran North York Coun. Maria Augimeri narrowly beat out Coun. Josh Colle to be the new chair of the Toronto Transit Commission.

City council voted 23-21 for Augimeri, who replaces Coun. Karen Stintz. Stintz is resigning effective Saturday to run for mayor.

Augimeri said she will seek a meeting "immediately" with Premier Kathleen Wynne to push for more provincial funding for transit.

A priority for Augimeri is improved bus and streetcar service to reduce overcrowding, something that will take more money.

The province up until the mid-1990s paid half of the TTC's operating subsidy. This year, the subsidy is $428 million so Augimeri is seeking at least $214 million from Queen's Park.

"We have to open up conversations immediately with Kathleen Wynne, who is a woman I truly respect," Augimeri told reporters. "I believe that she will hear us and that she will be eager to assist in any way possible."

Coun. Maria Augimeri, left, has been selected to replace Karen Stintz as the new chair of the Toronto Transit Commission. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In approving the TTC's budget request last month, city council directed TTC CEO Andy Byford and city manager Joe Pennachetti to negotiate for more funding from Queen's Park.

Augimeri said the timing is right because both Queen's Park and Ottawa are facing elections.

"Both governments are situated at a precipice right now, both of them need Toronto, both of them are going to be going into imminent elections," Augimeri said.

She added that she believes the Scarborough subway is a closed issue and that the next expansion project should be the downtown relief line to take pressure off of the Yonge subway line.

"The DRL is absolutely crucial to the viability of the city of Toronto," she said.

Augimeri was picked to chair the TTC for the rest of this term, which ends in December.

She sees the job as a "caretaker position" and won't seek to stay on as chair during the next term of council.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**As for Stintz ...**

**Coun. Karen Stintz says she will likely register to run for mayor next week.**

- Stintz had previously declared her intention to run. She said at the Wednesday council meeting that she is "looking at" a Monday registration for the Oct. 27 municipal vote.
- Her candidacy adds to the competition on the right and centre-right. Mayor Rob Ford, a populist conservative, is seeking re-election, and right-leaning businessman and former councillor David Soknacki is already actively campaigning. John Tory, the former Progressive Conservative leader, may enter the race in the next few weeks if he decides to run.
- The left appears to have ceded the field to likely standard-bearer Olivia Chow, the NDP MP who says she is "seriously considering" a bid.

# Ford parody Twitter account suspended

Richard Feren, the man behind the TOMayorFrod account, poses with Rob Ford. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Twitter has suspended one of the most popular Mayor Rob Ford parody accounts.

Richard Feren, the man behind @TOMayorFrod, was notified around 11 a.m. Wednesday after sending out a few tweets that morning, including: "My condolences to my friend Vladimir Putin whose hockey team was bullied out of the Olympics by gay-loving Finland."

A spokesperson for the popular social-networking service told the Torstar News Service it has a policy against commenting on personal accounts.

But an email the company sent Feren late Wednesday said Twitter had "received a complaint that your account, @TOMayorFrod, may be in violation of Twitter's policies on impersonation and/or trademark."

It gives him 48 hours to change the photo and biography on the account.

It goes on to say, "If you had intended to create a parody, commentary or fan account, your account will not be in violation so long as it complies with our policy for such accounts."

"What I don't understand is, I've been doing this for eight months — I don't understand why it's a problem now," Feren said of the sudden suspension. His account has about 7,800 followers.

The accounts do look very similar, with the same photo avatar, same background image of Toronto's skyline at night, and a similar biography.

It's not clear who made the complaint. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liz Gavin Kerr sits with her three-year-old daughter Isla in a Toronto coffee shop on Wednesday. Isla had surgery to treat a brain tumour, but doctors at Sick Kids Hospital are finding that a brain tumour that affects babies and toddlers might be treatable with an existing drug. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# T.O. doctors may have solved puzzle in childhood tumours

Canadian researchers believe they have solved a puzzle that has long baffled doctors — why no chemotherapy drug has been found that can treat a type of brain tumour that primarily affects babies and toddlers.

Their discovery has led them to an FDA-approved drug that may help eradicate a tumour known as an ependymoma, the third most common brain cancer diagnosed in children.

"It's a very slow-growing tumour, and the current treatment in 2014 is surgery and radiation," said Dr. Michael Taylor, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children who led the research reported Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"We don't give chemotherapy because the numerous clinical trials that have been done using every chemotherapy known, none of them work."

Despite surgical and radiation treatment, about 60 to 70 per cent of babies with an ependymoma don't survive, usually because the tumour recurs, he said, noting that the peak age of diagnosis is about nine months.

**Hard to read tumour**

**"In ependymoma's book, everything is spelled right and everything's in the correct order, but the font is all messed up. It's all written in the wrong font."**

**Dr. Michael Taylor, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children,** referring to the tumour

"They can't even walk yet and they're dying of brain cancer."

Frustrated by that missing weapon in their treatment arsenal — most cancers are attacked with a triad of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy — the Sick Kids researchers decided to look at the genetic makeup of patients' tumours.

By sequencing the DNA of 47 tumour samples, they discovered that ependymomas are unlike other cancers: they don't contain the genetic mutations that are the typical hallmark of cancer.

"If you think of the DNA as a three-billion letter book in every cell and it's sort of the code of instructions for a cell on how to behave, mutations are things like misspelled words, words that are deleted or added, or book chapters that are out of order," Taylor explained.

Liz Gavin Kerr, whose three-year-old daughter Isla had surgery to treat ependymoma, is excited about the prospect of a drug that might help her daughter if the brain tumor comes back. "For our family, of course, we hope that it never comes back."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Include underage sex workers in new rules: Vice officers

**Legislation revamp.**
So far, laws that apply to juvenile prostitution cases remain intact

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

York Regional Police Services vice officers are hoping the government keeps underage and trafficked sex workers in mind as it rewrites the country's prostitution laws.

The YRP held a press conference Wednesday to highlight the arrests of nine accused pimps in several human trafficking investigations, as well as their outreach with sex trade workers.

The announcement comes just after the federal government began consulting with Canadians on how the country's prostitution laws should change, since the Supreme Court of Canada decided to strike down three prostitution laws.

"I can speak on behalf of my chief of police when I say that whatever the government decides to do with respect to the Supreme Court decision, we hope that it takes into consideration the number of victims, predominantly the under-18, juvenile victims," said Det. Sgt. Peter Casey of the drugs and vice unit.

A sex trade worker speaks to a man in this file shot. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Quoted**

**"If we're dealing with the under-18 sex workers, the court decision doesn't affect that end of the business we do daily."**

**Det. Sgt. Peter Casey**

He said the Bedford decision doesn't affect juvenile prostitution directly. The laws struck down by the court are against communication for the purpose of prostitution, keeping a bawdy house and living on the avails of prostitution. Laws that apply in juvenile prostitution cases and human trafficking law prohibiting forced participation in the sex trade remain intact.

"If we're dealing with the under-18 sex workers, the court decision doesn't affect that end of the business we do daily," he said.

With time and trust in police, sex trade workers have decided to leave the sex trade and sometimes co-operate in prosecuting their pimps, said Casey.

Police forces across the country, including the YRP, coordinated on a similar, larger operation called Northern Spotlight early this year.

However, sex workers advocacy groups condemned Operation Northern Spotlight based on reports from sex trade workers that they were harassed and intimidated by police. The workers reported that officers bullied them into being let into their rooms or apartments, which they then searched.

"Collectively we are calling on local and national police forces to stop using deceptive and intimidating tactics against sex workers," a statement from the group read.

According to Casey, YRP officers are very careful not to harass or bully sex workers, and have learned to speak with the women in a way that makes them feel at ease.

"Perhaps ... women in other areas weren't familiar with these interviews," he said. "I'll suggest that, in time, they'll understand that police in other agencies are strictly trying to offer their assistance."

Casey said he was surprised to hear reports that officers searched the sex workers' rooms, as that is something the YRP wouldn't do.

"That would totally go against the premise of why we're there," he said.

The officers work at building trust with sex trade workers, who are typically trained to hate the police, and threatened and beaten by their pimps, he said.

"With time, they can see that we are there in fact to help and it takes time to earn some trust," he said. "But it's fear that's stopping them from co-operating, real fear."

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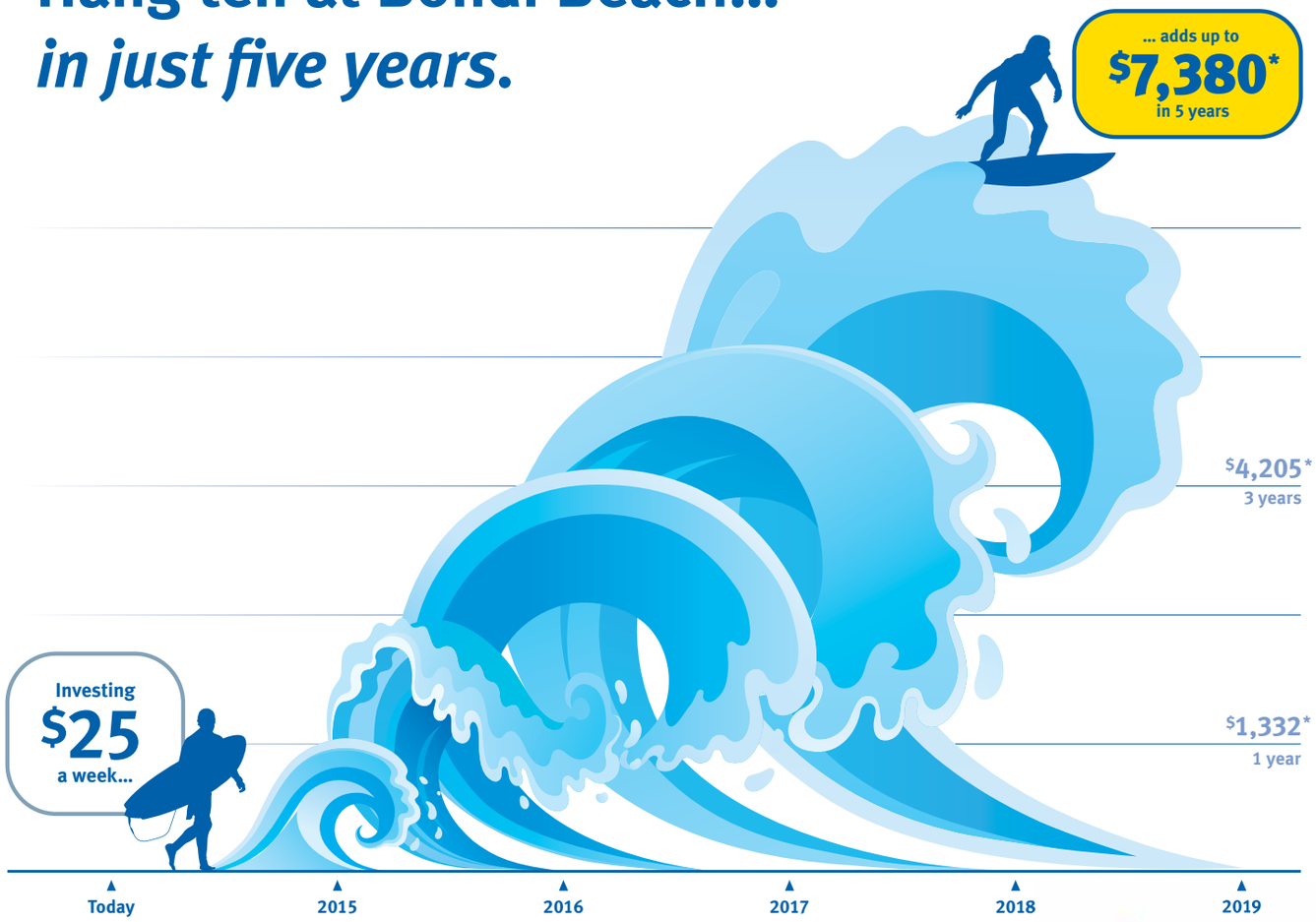


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# Overhauling the taxi industry

**Council-endorsed changes.** City's entire fleet must be wheelchair-accessible within 10 years

**Quoted**

**"I think this is a historic moment, when the industry is back in the hands of the people who are working 12 hours a day. The drivers have the industry back in their hands."** Sajid Mughal, president of the iTaxiworkers Association

Toronto's taxi industry will be overhauled after all.

After three years of deliberation, debate and delay, council voted 31-12 on Wednesday in favour of significant changes that will affect both passengers and everyone involved in the complex industry.

Council rejected a more conservative slate of reforms that was favoured by council's licensing committee — and the taxi brokerage companies that mounted a concerted lobbying effort.

Like all decisions on taxi matters, this one left some industry players ecstatic and some irate. The debate was held in front of a packed chamber of interested parties who wore green and orange T-shirts to signal their preferences.

The vote created a new Toronto Taxicab Licence (TTL), which all plate owners must obtain by 2024. Everyone with a TTL will have to use a wheelchair-accessible vehicle. Since accessible vehicles are expensive and only a small percentage of riders require them, brokerage executives said the requirement imposes needless costs.

Customers will soon see some other changes. Riders will be required to pay a $25 "soiling fee" if they vomit in a car. They will be forced to hand drivers $25 up front if the driver feels it is "necessary." And all taxis will have to use snow tires in the winter.

Drivers and plate owners will likely be impacted more substantially than the average rider by these and other changes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## The hoser you want to be called ...

Celebrating the time-honoured Canadian tradition of backyard rink building, Russell Gienapp was joined by Susan O'Brien from Canadian Tire to commemorate being selected as one of the Great Canadian Hosers, outside his outdoor community rink in Toronto. Gienapp received his gold-hose trophy along with a $1,000 gift card, to be used towards purchasing hoses for life to keep the rink (seen in background) going. CONTRIBUTED

# Through art, Jane-Finch youth 'choose to soar'

From left, Jane and Finch students Suviana Burey, Kareem Bennett and Destiny Henry have created works of art representing the injustice experienced in their community and a new way forward. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In a new art exhibit at York University, the walls do talk — with the voices of eight youth from Jane and Finch, who speak about their personal tragedies as they counter 'hood stereotypes.

"People don't understand that it's not a 'jungle.' It's not a 'war zone,'" said Suviana Burey, 18. She's eager to say that "crime" should not be the noun that defines her part of the city.

She and seven other young artists, along with mentors, have been working together since October on the second floor of Westview Centennial Secondary School to create If We Ruled the World, an experimental exhibit that opened earlier this month at the Art Gallery of York University.

After first connecting at Success Beyond Limits, a mentoring and youth outreach centre housed at the school, the young artists wrote spoken-word pieces, turned them into videos and created drawings and paintings inspired by their own verses.

Their work draws a sharp, fresh perspective on life in their community, where they find strength in spite of trauma and are building a better future in a place they are proud to call home.

"Basically, don't let the casualties that we live in turn out how our reality becomes," says the quiet, introspective Kareem Bennett, 18.

His poem walks through the dark places, where youth have met violent deaths, and reflects on how those tragedies have shaped him.

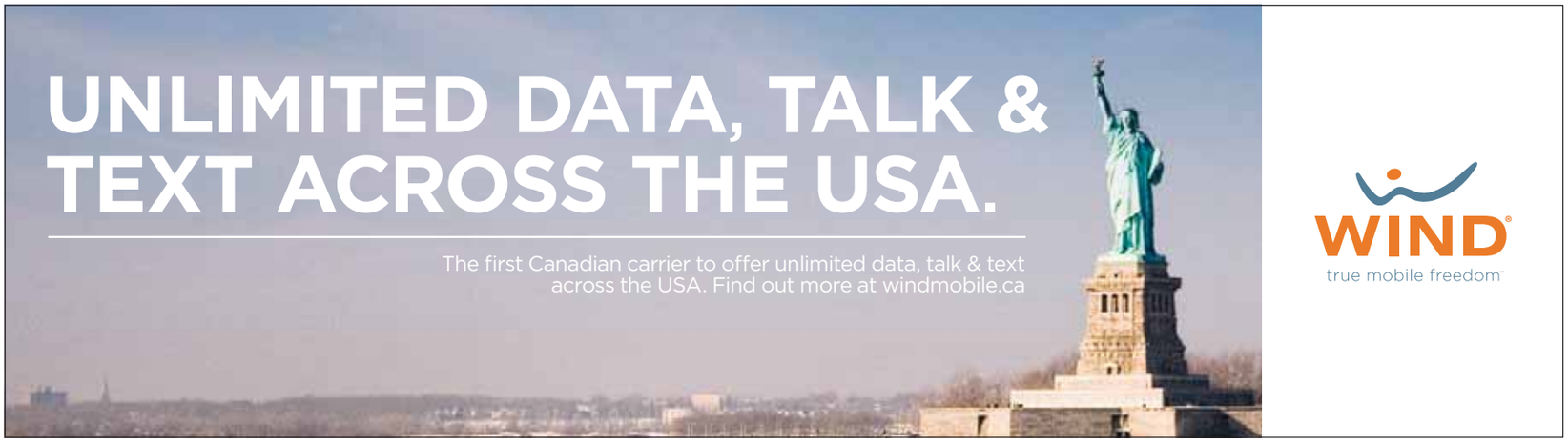
Last year, four teens were shot and killed just blocks from Westview. Last week marked one year since 15-year-old St. Aubyn Rodney was shot and killed inside his own apartment.

Typically, the violence is the only story people outside this community hear about, the students said.

"They'd be surprised by the many capabilities and talents that the people have here," said Destiny Henry, 17. "No one comes to look for the talent."

Their new work is not only about struggle, Henry said. "It's things that we saw, things that have impacted us. Things that we want to change," said Henry, whose piece shows an eagle and dove flying over a cracking heart. "You have to choose life over death.... I choose to soar. I choose to rise."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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## Hide-and-seek. RCMP hopes pig carcass will lead to missing bodies

The Saskatchewan RCMP is hoping a bright-orange pig carcass will help them locate missing bodies in Saskatchewan's River System.

Equipped with a radio transmitter and GPS tracker, members of the RCMP's major crimes historical case unit (HCU) placed the 180-pound pig into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.

"The whole idea of this project is to track this pig's movements as it flows down the river and hopefully, that will give us some insight as to where bodies end up," said Cpl. Tyler Hadland, of the HCU, noting six bodies are presumed to be in the South Saskatchewan River.

"The Saskatoon historical case unit has been annually searching the river, by plane and by boat, for the past number of years and we haven't been able to recover any of these bodies," he said. "So it's quite a mystery."

RCMP said Wednesday's launch is the projects' second phase, as a pig-carcass with similar tracking devices was placed into the North Saskatchewan River in North Battleford in the fall of 2013.

However, the carcass only travelled 20 kilometres before it was found on a sandbar a week later. **MORGAN MODJESKI/ METRO IN SASKATOON**

## Cruise ship. Worker accused of rape, trying to throw victim off balcony

A cruise ship worker from Indonesia is accused of raping a passenger aboard a Holland America Line vessel and then trying to throw her overboard, authorities said Tuesday.

The FBI reports that 28-year-old Ketut Pujayasa was arrested Sunday when the MS Nieuw Amsterdam returned to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. The incident occurred early Friday morning in international waters off the coast of Roatan, Honduras.

According to a criminal complaint, the victim — a 31-year-old U.S. woman — told investigators she was attacked and raped in her stateroom. The attacker tried to throw her from the balcony, but she escaped and received help from another passenger.

Pujayasa initially left the room but then turned himself in. The report says the Indonesian man told investigators he attacked the victim because she had disrespected him earlier. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau has found work at the Barefax strip club near Parliament Hill in Ottawa, shown here on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Brazeau lands gig at strip joint

**New job.** Brazeau has been without a steady Senate paycheque since his suspension in November

Patrick Brazeau has gone from sitting in the Senate to helping run a strip club.

The suspended senator, who faces criminal charges in connection with the expense scandal that roiled the august upper chamber last year, is now working as a manager at an Ottawa strip joint.

Brazeau has been spotted inside the Barefax Gentlemen's Club in recent days, but he declined Wednesday to speak to reporters camped outside the establishment who trailed him inside to the door of his office.

Carmelina Bentivoglio, the daughter of the club's owner, said Brazeau interviewed for a job as a day manager two weeks ago. He'll be responsible for "scheduling, hiring, firing, inventory — just like any other job," she said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

**Odd jobs**

**Patrick Brazeau also tried his hand as a columnist for the Halifax version of Frank magazine, but was canned after one-and-a-half columns, prompting an apology from the editor for subjecting readers to Brazeau's "narcissistic ramblings."**

- Brazeau will oversee between 25 and 30 employees in his new job, which he started Monday.

Patrick Brazeau THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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# Invite the Nazis over for dinner: Bertrand Russell

**Pre-war letter unearthed.** Nobel laureate wrote the idea would 'baffle' potential invaders

The Museum of Tolerance has acquired a 1937 letter written by Bertrand Russell in which the Nobel Prize-winning philosopher says if the Nazi army invades his native England the British should invite Adolf Hitler to dinner rather than fight.

The museum, part of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, announced Wednesday that it paid $4,000 for the letter at a London auction last month.

"If the Germans succeed in sending an invading army to England, we should do best to treat them as visitors, give them quarters and invite the commander-in-chief to dine with the prime minister," Russell wrote to British critic Godfrey Carter. "Such behaviour would completely baffle them."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Wiesenthal Center's founder, says Russell's letter will be placed in the museum alongside one that Hitler wrote in 1919 outlining the anti-Semitic views that would lead to the Holocaust and killing of six million Jews.

Russell, one of the 20th century's leading pacifists, eventually changed his views on Hitler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**What was he thinking?**

**"He didn't understand ... the idea that ... if we act nice to Hitler, serve him the best wine, that Hitler will come around to see things our way — is just preposterous."** Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of Simon Wiesenthal Center

## Missionary detained in North Korea

Karen Short, holding a photo of her husband, Australian missionary John Short, in Hong Kong on Wednesday. Short says her husband went to North Korea last week with a person who returned to China on Tuesday saying he had been questioned and arrested at his Pyongyang hotel on Sunday. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**South Sudan**

## Refugees, UN staff trapped

Fighting between South Sudan's army and rebels in the capital of one of its oil-rich states is forcing UN personnel to remain inside a base where more than 20,000 residents are seeking refuge, officials said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**African migrants**

## Israel deports dozens to Uganda

Israel has begun sending dozens of African migrants to Uganda, an Israeli official said Wednesday, a move that has sparked concerns that they are being coerced into going to a country that may not keep them safe.

The move marks a new phase in Israel's campaign to rid itself of thousands of Africans who came to the country in recent years.

"We are very concerned that these deportations are clearly not taking into consideration the safety and well-being of the deportees," said Elizabeth Tsurkov of the Hotline for Migrant Workers, an advocacy group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Phone-hacking trial

## Ex-PM Tony Blair allegedly offered to advise Murdoch

Jurors at Britain's phone-hacking trial were told Wednesday that former prime minister Tony Blair allegedly offered to work as an unofficial adviser to Rupert Murdoch as revelations of illegal phone hacking engulfed the mogul's media empire.

Prosecutor Andrew Edis read aloud an email sent by Rebekah Brooks, then head of Murdoch's British newspapers, to Murdoch's son and deputy James in July 2011.

In it, Brooks writes that Blair "is available for you, KRM (Rupert Murdoch) and me as an unofficial adviser, but needs to be between us."

Less than a week after that, Brooks was arrested and charged with conspiring to hack phones, bribe officials and obstruct a police investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

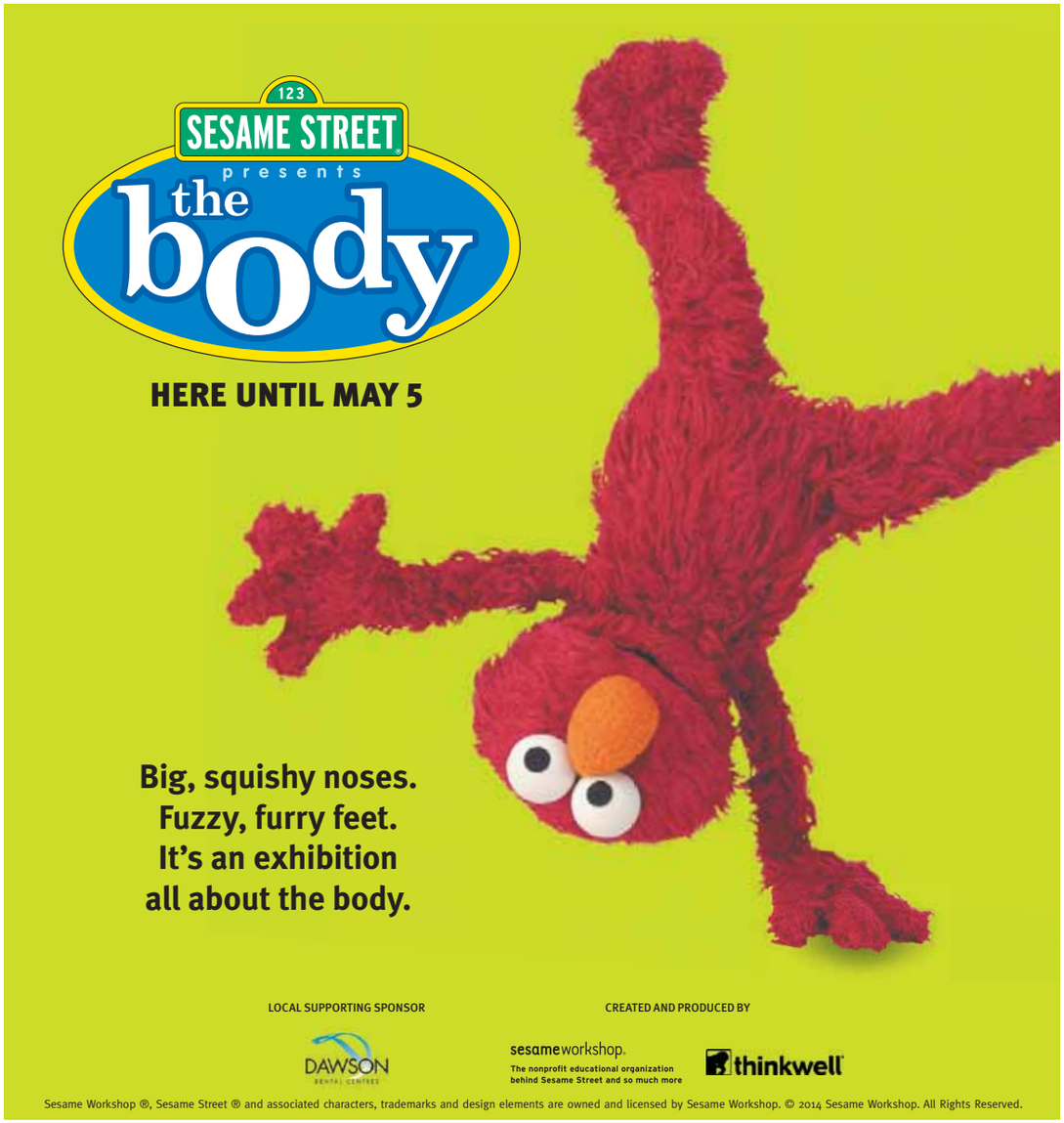
Afghanistan

## U.S. reached out for prisoner swap: Taliban official

Washington has held indirect talks with the Taliban over the possible transfer of five senior Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in exchange for a U.S. soldier captured nearly five years ago, a senior Taliban official told The Associated Press.

The talks, which the Taliban official said took place sometime over the past two months in a Middle East country, would be the first significant movement toward an exchange since it was last discussed by the U.S. and the Taliban in June 2013.

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, 27, of Hailey, Idaho, is believed to be held in the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is the only U.S. soldier to be captured in the country's longest war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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A demonstrator next to a burning barricade at an opposition protest in Caracas, Venezuela, was sought for allegedly inciting violence during last week's protests when three people

# Unrest in leader yet

**More protests to come.** Opposition planning nationwide marches for Saturday

Held at a military jail, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez waited to learn Wednesday if he will be charged for violence that has erupted during protests that have revitalized challenges to 15 years of socialist rule in the oil-rich nation.

Lopez, who dramatically surrendered to authorities before thousands of cheering supporters Tuesday, was to appear before a judge to learn what charges he would face for organizing mass demonstrations that have resulted in at least six deaths and more than 100 injuries over the past week.

The hearing was closed and the outcome had not been announced by late Wednesday as sporadic protests continued to erupt throughout the capital, with protesters setting fires in the streets and police firing volleys of tear gas and blasts from water cannons.

The government of President Nicolas Maduro has

## In Caracas, Metro asks:

"I'm marching to protest against the situation this country is in, with this incompetent government giving all our oil and money to other countries. This government has to leave, no matter what, and we'll be in the streets until this government resigns." METRO WORLD NEWS

*Juan Luis Oropeza, 22, graphic designer*

Juan Luis Oropeza


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Tuesday, after their leader, Leopoldo Lopez, surrendered to authorities Tuesday. Lopez were killed in clashes between police and protesters. RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Caracas: in jail

**A week of turmoil**

**The protests in Venezuela have so far resulted in:**

- **Six people killed.** Two government supporters and four backers of the opposition.
- **Renewed calls from human rights groups,** calling Lopez's arrest political.

accused Lopez, a 42-year-old former mayor and the leader of the Popular Will party, of attempting to foment a coup in the South American nation and authorities had said he could face charges that include homicide and causing grievous bodily harm.

Hundreds of supporters waited outside the courthouse for news of the decision, watched over by National Guard troops. Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, a member of a different opposition party, showed up at one point in a sign of unity among the foes of the Maduro government.

"We are all united in demanding the release of Leopoldo Lopez," Ledezma said. "We are rallying behind him."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Why do you protest?

"I'm marching because I don't want any oppression and because I want the students arrested during peaceful protests released. And I'm protesting against the economic and social problems in this country. But I'm scared because there are so many (police) agents here."

*Julián Sánchez, 21, social communications student*

Julián Sánchez

METRO WORLD NEWS

# Pope set to create a finance ministry

Pope Francis penned a new missive on the injustices of poverty Wednesday amid indications he is eyeing a major overhaul of the Vatican's financial house by creating a finance ministry to better serve the church.

Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, a key adviser in Francis' Group of Eight cardinal cabinet, told French Catholic newspaper La Croix that the creation of a "finance secretariat" was to organize the diverse financial departments.

Pope Francis
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He said a cardinal would probably head it, assisted by an advisory body of lay experts.

The development came as Francis and his "G8" cardinals ended three days of meetings to hear proposals for reform by experts who have been studying the Vatican's financial institutions. Based on the experts' reports, the G8 cardinals made their own recommendations to Francis, but no decisions were immediately announced.

Francis was elected with a mandate to reform the antiquated and inefficient Vatican bureaucracy and to help, rather than hinder, bishops trying to spread the faith.

He has paid special attention to the scandal-marred Vatican bank, long accused by Italian authorities of being an off-shore tax haven, and the half-dozen independent Vatican finance offices that do everything from managing the money-making Vatican Museums to administering the church's vast real estate holdings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Escaping the death grip

**Snake on the loose.**
An Alberta man is lucky to be alive after his Burmese python coiled around him

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

The Burmese python is one of the world's five largest snakes. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Say that one day your beloved pet, whom you had watched sprout since his infancy, managed to break free of his warm, well-ventilated enclosure and began to wriggle his frame around you.

If you had any time to think, you might reflect that although you've been a benevolent caretaker all this time, you're now gasping for air as the ungrateful pet squeezes you ever tighter. Heartbreaking stuff, right?

The pet in question isn't a Labradoodle, and this isn't a story from somewhere in Southeast Asia.

Rather, it's a true tale that involves one of the largest snakes on the planet — the feared Burmese python — and a basement in Alberta.

"(The owner) had this rather large dangerous snake he kept in his basement," explained Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, who did not specify the location of the home. "He went down there to check on it and because it was loose it started to coil around him."

Luckily, the man was able to escape — albeit with a newfound and well-deserved fear of the tropical snake. He quickly called conservation officers to help him handle the creature.

The Burmese python is one of the world's five biggest snakes, a collection that also includes the African rock python. The latter is the same species of snake that killed two boys in New Brunswick last summer after escaping from its cage.

Unlike that situation, in which it appears the owner didn't have a permit, the owner in Alberta was able to legally possess the snake thanks to a grandfathering clause in provincial regulations.

"It was during a time in which we were changing regulations and becoming more strict," Dunford explained. "(The owner) got a shelter permit because he possessed it legally before we made our regulations more restrictive, so we grandfathered the possession of certain pets for a time."

**Quoted**

**"After a day they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all."**

**Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer,** describing how officials corralled a loose Burmese python.

Once officers arrived, they developed a game plan to safely apprehend the snake.

As the Burmese python thrives in blisteringly hot conditions, Dunford said, officers decided to turn off the heat in the house in hopes that cooler conditions would slow the snake down.

It worked. "After a day, they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all," he explained. "They were able actually to help the owner simply get it back into its secure container."

## But this is Canada — could I really meet a pet crocodile on the loose?*

The deaths of two young boys in New Brunswick last summer at the hands of an escaped African rock python alerted the country to the potential dangers of unusual pets.

But is there really such a threat in famously frigid Canada of encountering somebody's dangerous exotic animal?

It appears to depend on where you live, but generally, it seems that Canada poses a far bigger threat to odd pets than they do to us.

"Fortunately (in Alberta) we haven't had too many issues with exotics getting into the wild," Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, told Metro, noting the province does have a detailed action plan to handle these sorts of situations.

He said dangerous animals imported from sunnier locales, such as tropical snakes, would probably only survive during the summer months and wouldn't "last long when the temperature gets colder."

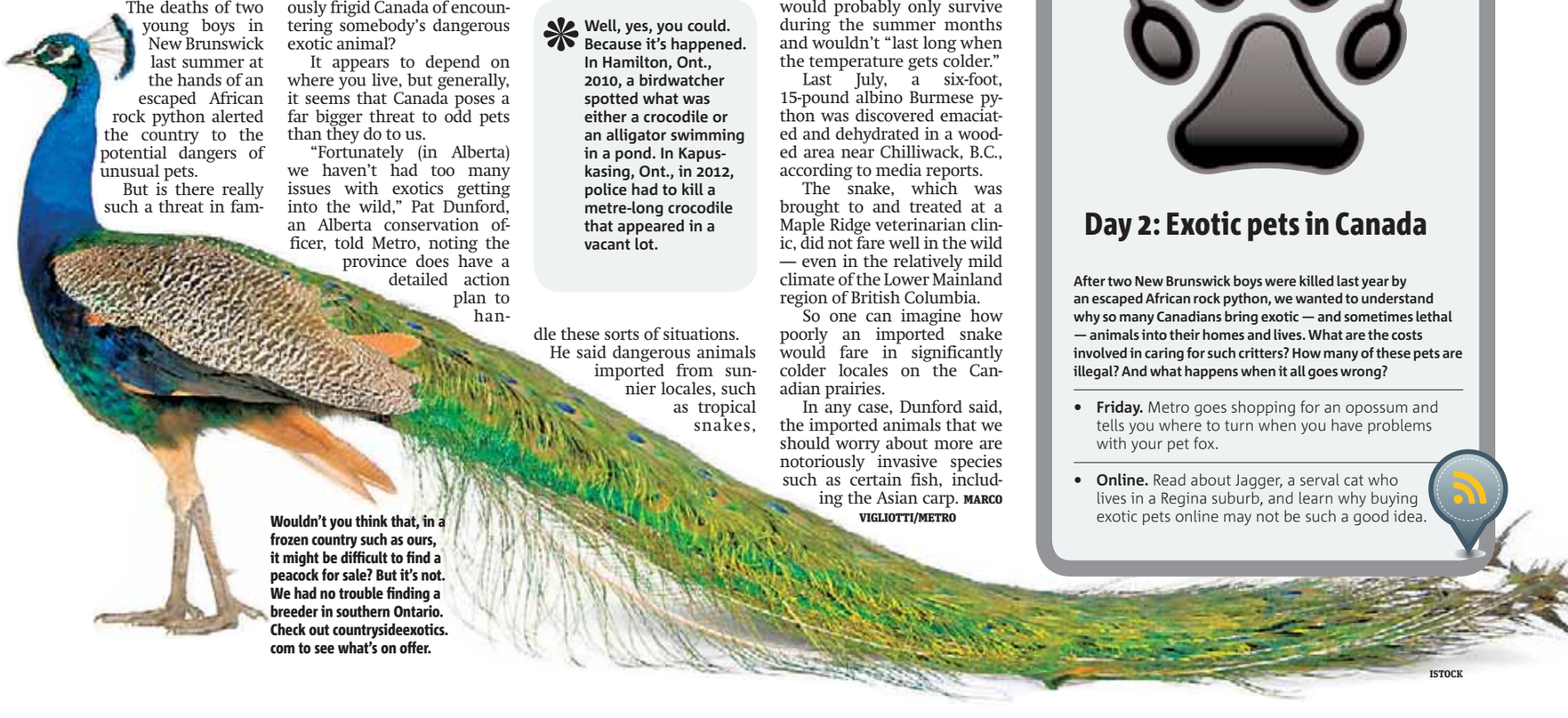
Last July, a six-foot, 15-pound albino Burmese python was discovered emaciated and dehydrated in a wooded area near Chilliwack, B.C., according to media reports.

The snake, which was brought to and treated at a Maple Ridge veterinarian clinic, did not fare well in the wild — even in the relatively mild climate of the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

So one can imagine how poorly an imported snake would fare in significantly colder locales on the Canadian prairies.

In any case, Dunford said, the imported animals that we should worry about more are notoriously invasive species such as certain fish, including the Asian carp. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

*** Well, yes, you could. Because it's happened. In Hamilton, Ont., 2010, a birdwatcher spotted what was either a crocodile or an alligator swimming in a pond. In Kapuskasing, Ont., in 2012, police had to kill a metre-long crocodile that appeared in a vacant lot.**



**Wouldn't you think that, in a frozen country such as ours, it might be difficult to find a peacock for sale? But it's not. We had no trouble finding a breeder in southern Ontario. Check out countrysideexotics.com to see what's on offer.**

ISTOCK

### Day 2: Exotic pets in Canada

**After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?**

- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum and tells you where to turn when you have problems with your pet fox.
- **Online.** Read about Jagger, a serval cat who lives in a Regina suburb, and learn why buying exotic pets online may not be such a good idea.

## The hot-button hedgehog

**Sure, they're cute, but in some parts of the U.S., they also seem to be controversial —partly, it appears, because of a debate over whether they spread foot-and-mouth disease. According to online forum hedgehogcentral.com, the animals are illegal in California, Hawaii, Georgia and the five boroughs of New York City. Maine has also had restrictions, and the site describes the situation in Pennsylvania as "all out war on hedgehogs within the state."**

**Hedgehog advocates insist the animals are not a problem. Z.G. Standing Bear, treasurer of the International Hedgehog Association, told Torstar News Service last year that six U.S. states and several cities ban hedgehogs for "all kinds of reasons" based on "no facts at all." "They're benign. There is nothing dangerous about them. That's what irritates us so much; they get this bad reputation," he said.**

**Hedgehogs may be in for a tough time north of the border, too. Last year, a Toronto city councillor asked municipal staff to study adding animals including hedgehogs to the city's list of prohibited species. Flamingoes, penguins, walruses, vultures and seals are also in his sights. METRO**

ISTOCK

An African pygmy hedgehog

## What happens when it all goes wrong

In the past couple of decades, there've been a number of high-profile cases in Canada of exotic pets killing their owners:

• In 2007, 32-year-old Tanya Dumstrey-Soos was mauled by a tiger owned by her fiancé at a farm in 100 Mile House, B.C., while several children, including one of her own, watched. It's thought that the tiger didn't intentionally attack her, but rather was trying to play with her skirt as she stood outside its enclosure talking to it. The tiger, Gangus, was the only one of three tigers on the farm who wasn't declawed, and Dumstrey-Soos died of her injuries. Animals on the farm also included a lion and a lemur, and a variety of officials and animal welfare advocates said they'd had ongoing concerns about the farm.

• In 1992, 28-year-old Mark Neville of Brampton, Ont., was strangled to death by his five-metre-long pet Burmese python. At the time, the death prompted calls for consistent legislation on exotic pets, but unlike many provinces, Ontario still doesn't have provincial standards on the issue.

The investigating coroner said Neville had visited a friend's house where there was a shedding cat, and it's believed that later, when he put his hand in the python's enclosure, it smelled food and attacked.

• In early 2010, 66-year-old Norman Buwalda was killed at his home in Southwold, Ont., as he entered the cage of a 650-pound Siberian tiger. No one witnessed the attack, and police said they don't know why it happened. Buwalda was the chairman of the Canadian Exotic Animal Owner's Association, and had five wild cats, including a lion and a cougar. Six years previously, a 350-pound tiger seriously injured a boy visiting the property. METRO

**You know that an octopus can make a tasty deep-fried appetizer, but did you know people keep them as pets? Read Metro tomorrow to find out which Hollywood star once had a cephalopod about the house.**

ISTOCK

# 'If you're not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, please don't get one'

**Lessons from Darwin.**
The former owner of the Ikea monkey says having a primate in the house takes time, energy and resources

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

After her pet monkey's romp around a Toronto-area Ikea, Yasmin Nakhuda has been struggling to get it back. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

She and what had been her pet monkey have made headlines in Canada for more than a year, since the primate managed to get out of her car outside a Toronto Ikea store and scamper around the property in late 2012.

Yasmin Nakhuda, a Toronto lawyer, is trying to get Darwin back through an appeal of an Ontario court ruling that has since kept the monkey at a primate sanctuary.

Metro asked Nakhuda about her case, and about having primates as pets.

**Are you optimistic about your chance of reclaiming legal ownership of Darwin through your court appeal?**
We are still trying to get him back but since the matter is still being reviewed for appeal purposes, I cannot make any further comments regarding chances of winning.

**Do you feel that monkeys such as Darwin make good pets for people in Canada?**
Monkeys are not pets for everyone. But if the owner is very dedicated, loving, educated about primate needs and ready and willing to learn, then a monkey can be more than a pet — it can become part of one's family. Monkeys are intelligent and it is untrue that all monkeys are aggressive. Some monkeys work as licensed waiters in Japan, while others are trained and work as helpers for the disabled.

Visit metronews.ca to watch a video of monkeys working as waiters in Japan.

**Do you have any advice for other people who might be considering trying to acquire monkeys or other animals that are deemed exotic or foreign to Canada?**
If you are not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, then please don't get one. However, if you do and you are able to earn the love and respect of your pet monkey, a pet monkey can be one of the greatest companions you can have in your life.

As for other exotic pets, I own an African Grey parrot and a Scarlet Macaw and they are equally great pets given their intelligence, but again, they need a lot of attention and care and one has to be able to afford expensive toys, food and supplements on an ongoing basis.

### Have an adventure with Darwin

**Darwin's Ikea shopping trip may be over in real life, but it continues online in the form of a video game which you can find at ikeamonkeyshirt.com. Barnabas Wornoff, an animation professor at Toronto's Seneca College, took about a week to create the game with a group of former students. Players can control the shearling coat-wearing monkey as it wanders through the parking lot in search of Allen keys, pegs and other parts needed to build a Billy wall shelf, all the while dodging rogue shopping carts and Ikea customers. Wornoff said the monkey dances when the game is completed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

# Tit for tat. U.S. artist charged with smashing a $1 million Ai Weiwei vase

Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, who helped make his name smashing a valuable vase in the name of art, said Wednesday that he was miffed about another artist destroying one of his vases.

Maximo Caminero was charged with criminal mischief after destroying a vase valued at $1 million that was part of Ai's exhibit at the Perez Art Museum Miami. The Florida artist said he smashed the vase Sunday to protest the lack of displays of local artists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women walk past an exhibit by artist Ai Weiwei in Miami. GETTY IMAGES

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A member of the anti-Putin punk group Pussy Riot is restrained by a member of the Cossack militia in Sochi, Wednesday. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Pussy Riot whipped by Cossack militia

**Sochi Olympics.** Russian protest group beaten and pepper sprayed to prevent protest performance

Cossack militia attacked the Pussy Riot punk group with horsewhips on Wednesday as the artists — who have feuded with Vladmir Putin's government for years — tried to perform under a sign advertising the Sochi Olympics.

Six group members — five women and one man — donned their signature ski masks and were pulling out a guitar and microphone as at least 10 Cossacks and other security officials moved in. One Cossack appeared to use pepper spray. Another whipped several group members while other Cossacks ripped off their masks and threw the guitar in a garbage can.

Police arrived and questioned witnesses; no one was arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Whipping up the people**

**Pussy Riot is a performance-art collective with a membership of feminists who edit their actions into music videos.**

- The group gained attention in 2012 after going into a Moscow cathedral and performing a prayer asking Mary to save Russia from Putin.

Loretta Saunders
COURTESY HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

# Missing woman's car found in Ontario

**'Very suspicious.'** Two charged with possession of stolen vehicle owned by Halifax student, who was reported missing on Monday

Halifax police are now treating the disappearance of a 26-year-old woman as suspicious after her car was found in Ontario.

Loretta Saunders was reported missing by her family on Monday after she was last seen in Halifax last Thursday. Investigators say her car was discovered Tuesday night in Harrow, Ont., south of Windsor.

A 25-year-old man and 28-year-old woman were arrested by the OPP on charges of possession of a stolen vehicle and for outstanding warrants.

Halifax police Const. Pierre Bourdages says the man and woman know Saunders, but he declined to provide further details on the nature of their relationship.

Bourdages says police are treating the Saunders case as suspicious because she is normally in touch with her family in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"She was known to be in contact with family and friends several times a day," he said Wednesday.

"Given the fact her vehicle was located with two other people in Ontario, that makes the circumstances very suspicious."

Police say they don't know exactly how the car ended up in the province, but they are asking anyone who may have seen Saunders or her car, a Toyota Celica with a Newfoundland and Labrador licence plate of HCP 543, to come forward.

Saunders, a student at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, is an Inuk woman, five-foot-seven and about 120 pounds, with light brown straight hair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Blue Mountain. Police probing snowboarder's death at ski resort

Taylor Ogram LINKEDIN

Police have identified a 20-year-old snowboarder who died Wednesday after being found in critical condition at Blue Mountain ski resort near Collingwood, Ont.

Taylor Ogram of Caledon, Ont., was reported missing by his friends around 1 a.m. and was found by two members of the resort's staff about a half-hour later, suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Paramedics transported Ogram to Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, and he was pronounced dead a short time later.

OPP Sgt. Peter Leon says the snowboarder was wearing a helmet but the exact nature of his injuries is still to be determined through a post-mortem examination.

Leon says Ogram was found in a wooded area next to the ski hill near the South Base Lodge, adding it's possible he might have hit a tree.

"He was with a group of friends throughout the day … and they were trying to locate him for a period of time," Leon said. The friends then told security at the resort and a search was immediately started and police called.

Blue Mountain spokeswoman Ashley Boland says the incident happened on the Sunrise run but had no further details.

She says OPP are at the site and resort officials would have no additional comment since they are waiting for the police to complete their investigation.

"This is a very tragic thing for Blue Mountain and the family … and out of respect for the OPP's process, we'd like to refrain from any further comment," Boland said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sarnia

## 2nd man arrested after cat shot with pellet gun

A second man has been arrested in an animal cruelty case involving a cat in southwestern Ontario that suffered as many as 17 pellet wounds to the head.

The cat — named "Joe" — was rescued earlier this month in Brights Grove, Ont., and is said to be in stable condition.

A 20-year-old Sarnia man was arrested early Wednesday and police say he will be charged with two animal cruelty offences.

A 19-year-old man, also from Sarnia, was arrested last Thursday and was charged with two counts of animal cruelty.

The Sarnia and District Humane Society has said Joe had surgery to remove the pellets, but that the cat lost an eye due to his injuries.

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Sochi

## IOC president praises Ukraine's athletes

IOC president Thomas Bach has expressed his condolences to victims of the violence in Ukraine and praised Ukraine's Olympic athletes for continuing to compete at the Sochi Games.

Ukraine sent a team of 43 athletes to Sochi.

Bach says "the way they have continued to represent their nation with great dignity is a credit to them and their country."

He says "their presence here is a symbol that sport can build bridges."

Earlier, the IOC rejected a request for Ukrainian athletes to wear black armbands to honour those who died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dmytro Mytsak of Ukraine during the alpine skiing men's giant slalom in Sochi on Wednesday.

GETTY IMAGES

Europe

## EU debating sanctions against Ukraine

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told reporters that he and his counterparts from Germany and Poland would meet both sides in Ukraine ahead of the EU meeting on possible sanctions. He said he hoped the two sides "will find a way for dialogue."

Possible sanctions include travel bans and asset freezes, which could hit hard the powerful oligarchs who back Viktor Yanukovych.

Ordinary Ukrainians, meanwhile, are struggling amid a stagnating economy and soaring corruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Ukraine agrees to halt violence

**Truce.** Earlier clashes that killed 26 had fuelled fears the nation could be sliding toward a messy breakup

Ukraine's embattled president and leaders of the protests that have been roiling the country agreed Wednesday on a truce to halt the violence that has killed 26 people and injured more than 425 others.

A protest leader was quoted as saying the government pledged not to attack an opposition encampment in central Kyiv while further negotiations unfold.

President Viktor Yanukovych met with opposition leaders and the two sides agreed to halt the violence and to hold talks on ending bloodshed, a statement on the presidential website said. The statement did not give any further details.

Vitali Klitschko, one of the leaders of the protests that have sought to keep Ukraine open to Europe and out of a close political and economic alliance with Russia, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that Yanukovych agreed that there would be no attempt to storm the protesters' encampment on the main square of downtown Kyiv.

The truce announcement came hours after the president replaced the army chief and the military vowed a national anti-terrorist operation to restore order. Officials have often referred to the protesters who have demanded Yanukovych's resignation for months as "terrorists."

Political and diplomatic manoeuvring has continued, with both Moscow and the West eager to gain influence over this former Soviet republic. Three EU foreign ministers — from Germany, France and Poland — were heading to Kyiv on Thursday to speak with both sides before an emergency EU meeting back in Brussels to consider sanctions against those responsible for the recent violence in Ukraine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**An issue of identity**

**The recent violence has been the worst in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Kyiv.**

- The two sides are locked in a battle over the identity of this nation of 46 million, whose loyalties are divided between Russia and the West.

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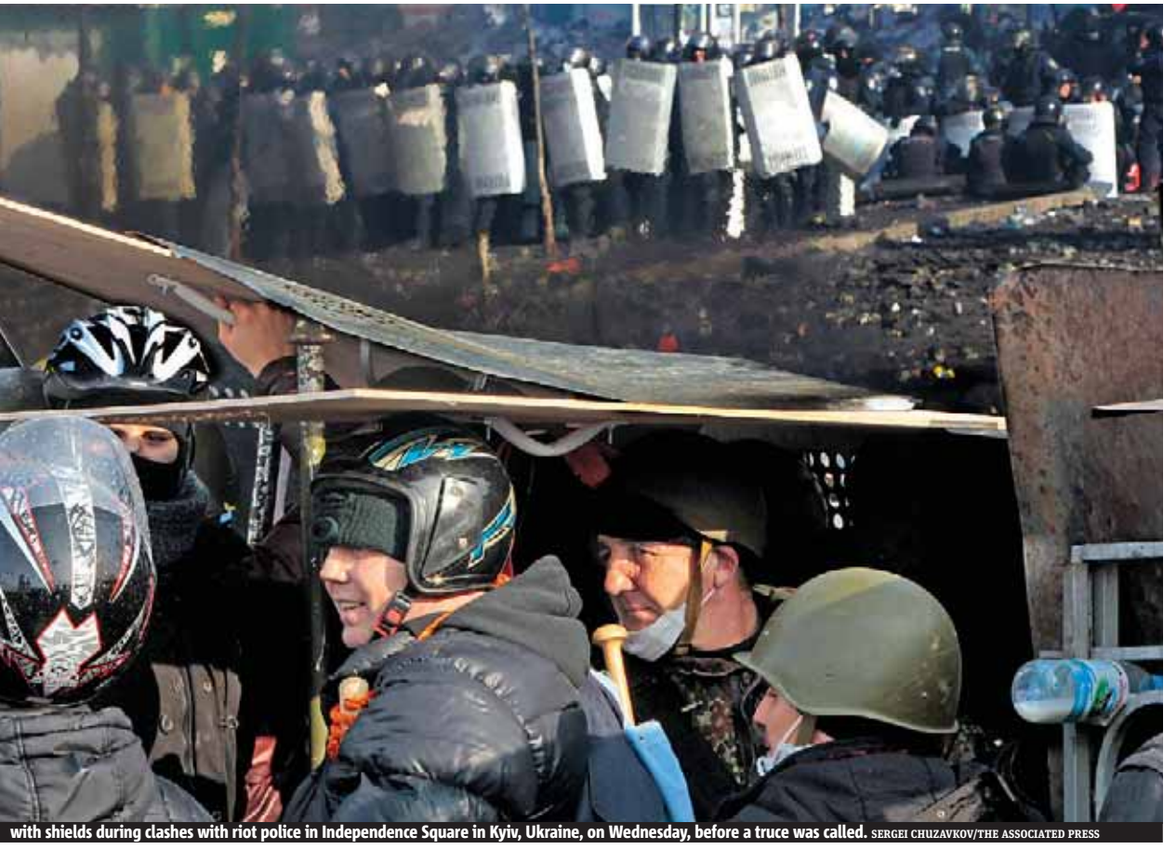

with shields during clashes with riot police in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday, before a truce was called. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canada reacts. Feds mull diplomatic options, including sanctions

During a bilateral meeting in Mexico, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama were in agreement on several fronts in regards to the Ukrainian crisis, calling it a "welcome step" if a truce was called between the Ukrainian government and opposition leaders.

"We hold the government responsible and urge them to take all the steps necessary to resolve the situation," Harper told a news conference following the meeting.

Harper and Obama also urged the Ukrainian military to show restraint and refrain from becoming involved in issues that should be resolved by civilians, the statement said.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Canada is considering a range of diplomatic options to send a message to the Yanukovych government, including targeted sanctions.

The Harper government will consult other nations as it considers possible next steps, he said. "I will ... be consulting our allies and like-minded nations to build a co-ordinated path forward in the coming days."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Too little, too late?**

- Canadians of Ukrainian origin gathered Wednesday on Parliament Hill to denounce the violence in their homeland's capital city, all the while agonizing about the fate of loved ones caught up in the deadly violence.
- Many expressed the fear that proposed sanctions being considered by Canada, the U.S. and the European Union may come too late to save their former country from economic and political disaster.

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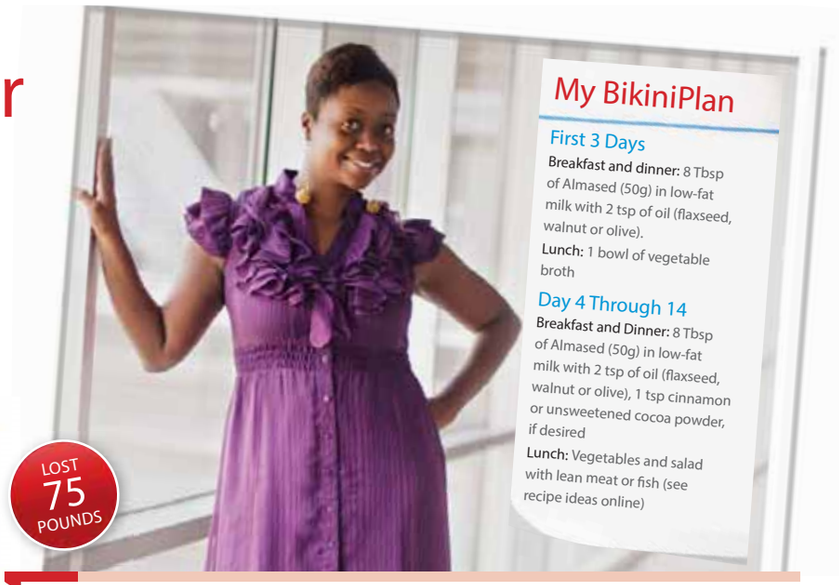
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# Over 60. Each additional hour sitting linked to doubling disability risk

New research showing a strong link between too much sedentary time and disability adds to growing recognition that "sitting is the new smoking."

A study published Wednesday in the Journal of Physical Activity and Health found that for those 60 and older, every additional hour a day spent sitting is linked to a doubling of the risk of disability, regardless of the amount of moderate exercise the person gets.

Disability was defined as having limitations in ability to do basic activities such as eating, dressing, bathing, getting in and out of bed, and walking across a room.

While previous research has shown that a lack of exercise is a risk factor for disability, this is the first study to show that sedentary behaviour, in itself, is also a risk factor.

Take two 65-year-old women: one sedentary for 12 hours a day, the other for 13 hours. The second is 50 per cent more likely to be disabled, according to the study. "There are some unique things about sitting that could contribute to poor health. When you are sitting, you are using fewer muscles and your circulation slows down," said lead author Dorothy Dunlop.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Northwestern University**

**Their finding means that older adults need to reduce the amount of time they spend sitting, whether in front of a television or computer, regardless of how much moderate activity they do.**

- Greg Wells, a professor at U of T, is not surprised by the findings. He said the study is consistent with many others published recently about the dangers of sitting.

## Watching for polluters off British Columbia

Marine Aerial Reconnaissance Team senior technologist Owen Rusticus monitors marine traffic on the Salish Sea near Victoria, B.C., during a National Aerial Surveillance Program flight that departed Vancouver International Airport in Richmond and flew over the waters surrounding southern Vancouver Island on Wednesday. The federal government is doubling the money spent on aerial surveillance to monitor pollution such as oil spills from ships in Canadian waters. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Immigration info**

## Systematic exchange of data eyed with allies

Canada is looking at a greatly expanded sharing of immigration information — such as fingerprints of visa applicants — with not only the United States but other key allies.

A memo prepared for Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander says the government is building an information technology system that could be used for systematic exchange of biometric data with Britain, Australia and New Zealand. The feds are already pursuing wide-scale sharing of immigration information with the U.S. under the perimeter security pact. Canada's privacy commissioner has expressed concerns about high-volume, routine info sharing, saying it may be impossible to control what happens to the data when sent.

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# Ontario's mineral belt must be national priority: Report

**Ring of Fire.** All levels of government stand to recoup estimated $2B investment in region within decade, document notes

The highly-touted Ring of Fire mineral belt in northern Ontario is expected to generate nearly $2 billion in tax revenues and up to 5,500 full-time jobs in the first 10 years of mining activity, says a new report.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce's action plan and economic analysis, to be made public in Toronto Thursday, also calls on the federal government to make the Ring of Fire a national priority.

The Beneath the Surface report says that within the first decade of development, the mineral-rich area will generate up to $9.4 billion in GDP and nearly $6.2 billion for the province's mining industry.

Hoping to spur activity in the stalled region, the Chamber is calling on Ottawa to take a more active role in the financing of the lucrative mining camp, since it stands to be the primary benefactor of tax revenues.

Greg Rickford, the minister responsible for the file, reaffirmed Wednesday that Ottawa's new Building Canada fund is the way for the province to access major infrastructure dollars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Greg Rickford, science and technology minister, says Building Canada fund is the way for Ontario to access infrastructure dollars. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

**Economic activity**

**Over the long-term (32 years), the analysis shows Ring of Fire projects will generate more than $25 billion in economic activity across Ontario.**

- The sectors expected to benefit are construction in Thunder Bay; mining supply and service in Sudbury, Mississauga, Ottawa, and Burlington; financial services in Toronto; and manufacturing in London.

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# Three Amigos. Keystone XL pipeline top topic at summit

The United States, Canada and Mexico will always have "parochial interests," U.S. President Barack Obama said Wednesday following a bilateral meeting with Stephen Harper in which the Keystone XL pipeline was a key topic of discussion.

But so much trade between the three countries is part of an integrated supply chain that allows them to sell their products and services around the world, Obama added at the so-called Three Amigos Summit in the Mexican city of Toluca.

"We have every incentive to make this work," Obama said, urging the business audience at the summit to help push for progress.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Market Minute**

**DOLLAR**
90.24¢ (-1.08¢)

**TSX**
14,119.73 (+42.26)

**OIL**
$103.31 US (+$0.88)

**GOLD**
$1,320.40 US (-$4)

**Natural gas:** $6.10 US (+$0.54)
**Dow Jones:** 16,040.56 (-89.84)

**Rogers biggest buyer**

## Wireless spectrum auction raises $5.27B for feds

The federal government raked in $5.27 billion in the latest wireless spectrum auction, the most Ottawa has ever received in such a sale. Industry Canada announced Wednesday that the biggest buyer of the 20-year licenses was Rogers, which paid $3.29 billion for 22 licenses across the country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Cuts sow seeds of discontent among Greek farmers

A farmer shouts slogans during a protest outside the Greek parliament against government tax policies in Athens on Wednesday. About 4,000 people, including civil servant unions, took part in the peaceful demonstration outside the House of Parliament. Greece's conservative-led government has committed to continue spending cuts and economic reforms in exchange for billions of euros in international rescue loans. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Our true patriot love for Facebook

**O (boy) Canada.**
With glowing faces ... from our smartphones we stand on guard for the social network

Canada was one of the first countries to go completely crazy for Facebook and now the social network is saying we're leading the charge with mobile usage, too.

There are 19 million Canadians who access Facebook at least once a month and 14 million who log in every single day, says Jordan Banks, the head of Facebook Canada.

Those numbers haven't really changed since the summer, when Banks last gave an update on user counts, but mobile is growing.

The number of users who log in with a phone or tablet at least once a month is now at 15 million, up about 15 per cent from 13 million. And the number of mobile users accessing Facebook daily is up about six per cent to 10 million, from 9.4 million in August.

"Essentially we're getting 50 per cent of Canadian (Internet users) on Facebook every day and the exciting part for us as marketers is that when you look at the composition of how those people are accessing Facebook, it's more increasingly on a mobile device than ever before," says Banks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**New national pastime?**

**"We're seeing people check their phones 20 times a day for Facebook — status updates and news feed posts and checking in — so it's really become like a Canadian reflex, if you will, to access your phone, whether you're at a bus stop or a hockey game or sitting at home watching TV."**

**Jordan Banks, head of Facebook Canada**

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# OLYMPICS BRING OUT THE WORST

HE SAYS

**John Mazerolle**
metronews.ca

Olympic officials love to wax eloquent about how sports can help us celebrate humanity as one, as can be illustrated in this history of the Games:

**1896:** The modern Olympic Games are created to promote world peace.

**1897:** World peace declared.

This timeline, though exhaustive, is not wholly accurate. In fact, the Olympics solve society's problems with only the same proficiency that pop songs alleviate world hunger.

While I won't claim to know the hearts of the amazing athletes, I can talk about the average sports fans' humanity during these Olympics in Sochi. Their emotions are not always the Olympian ideal.

**Rage:** Sports always attracts angry fans: hockey fans who would gladly dismember a 14-year-old linesman; baseball fans apoplectic about strike calls they can't possibly see; MMA fans who fill in most of evolution's missing links. But the Olympics teach us that the most terrifying creature of all is the figure skating fan who is convinced their favourite skaters were stiffed.

It's satisfying in a way. People who mock me for yelling at the TV during a Bruins game positively have a Salchow every four years because someone on Team Canada got "robbed." It's an Olympic tradition. This wouldn't happen if Olympic figure skating had fighting like the North American version, but that's a debate for later.

**Fear:** What do you suppose is the hardest job in the world? Doctor? Air traffic controller? Olympian? No, the Olympics prove time and again that the hardest job is creating a mascot that is not a horrifying abomination.

It's a life rule. There are no funny clowns, no sexy feet and no mascots that will not haunt your dreams. The Athens mascots appeared to be phalluses wearing coloured condoms, perhaps to laud the birth of civilization. The London mascots were one-eyed demon creatures, probably to promote the city's Olympian level of CCTV cameras.

At first the Sochi bear seemed like a fool-proof idea. Who doesn't like teddy bears? However, the version at the opening ceremonies looked like a drunken uncle who should delete his Internet browsing history more often. Meanwhile, the version that stalks Olympic venues almost looks like an everyday bear mascot — except that he has cold, dead shark eyes. He will have children leaving their night lights on until at least the 2016 Summer Games. And who knows what monstrosity we might be faced with then?

**Schadenfreude:** If my workplace and favourite bar are any indication, two things always get big cheers from crowds at the Olympics:

1.) A Canadian hockey player scores a goal.

2.) An athlete from another country falls over.

The sport might be one fans had not heard of 10 minutes ago — Ladies' Super-G Bobsled Cross — but if there's a chance at gold, we want our opponents crushed. And, if necessary, their pelvises.

In short, the Olympics aren't the best of humanity, on either side of the TV screen. They're just … humanity, which includes braggarts, fools and outright villains, to go along with the kind-hearted, the wise and the heroes.

And despite my cynical take, I still believe in heroes. After all, somebody has to slay the damn bear.

## ZOOM

# All that glitters isn't gold

ANNE OLLILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Finnish reindeer dabbed with paint

A reindeer is seen with fluorescent antlers after a test in which Finnish herders dabbed it with fluorescent paint. Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover — the latest attempt to halt some of the thousands of road deaths of the roaming caribou in the wilds of Finland.

Anne Ollila, of the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association, says the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with various fluorescent dyes to see how the animals react and whether the paints are resistant to the harsh Arctic climate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Roaming free**

## 200,000

If successful, animals with glittering antlers will be free to roam Lapland — a vast, deserted area in northern Finland where herders tend to some 200,000 reindeer.

**Reflective tape**

- The Finnish Reindeer Association says reflectors and reflective tape have proven unsuccessful as reindeer have torn them off — and road signs warning drivers of roaming reindeer often are stolen by tourists as souvenirs.

**Clickbait**

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

**Looks like oversharing social media users are learning from their mishaps as a wave of apps touting online anonymity are quietly creeping into cyberspace. Users wanting to publicly praise or put down that pretty girl, berate their boss or wax poetic have carved out online spaces to do so without having to worry about said pretty girl, boss, etc.**

ISTOCKIMAGES

**Whisper:**
Posts run the gamut from guilty pleasures to deep thoughts (#ThereIsNoProof) in this Tumblr-like confessional space.

**Shrtwv:**
Location-based sharing means you share your anonymous thoughts, photos, etc., with other Shrtwv users in the same vicinity (no, this is not meant to be the latest Grindr)

**Secret:**
Like other social media sites, you're still sharing your "secrets" with your pals, but you get to do so incognito.

**Twitter**

**@metropicks asked: The idea of Trudeau rolling papers was originally the Cons' plan to disrupt the Liberals. Do they help or hinder Trudeau's image?**

**@Russell_Barth:** the irony of these papers (AND the #cpc's mad assertions) is that Justin isn't *actually* going to legalize #pot

**@chlobotxo:** i think it's hilarious. It helps by showing the Cons are traditional bullies

**@ac_awesome:** So instead of saying he flip-flops, opponents are accusing him of Zigzags.

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# The power of truthisms

**Paul Mooney.**
Comedian whose worked on everything from In Living Color to Chappelle's Show brings his talent to the Bloor Hot Docs

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Stolen From Africa Presents: Paul Mooney — Out of Darkness, the Last Stand Tour at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, Saturday February 22 at 9 p.m. COURTESY TIMOTHY M. MOORE

Understanding the power that comes from knowledge was a lesson comedian Paul Mooney learned early in life.

"I've always known it," he says on the phone from a stop on his current stand-up tour. He performs at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema Saturday.

"I've been writing since I was two or five, when I found out the power of truthisms."

Mooney plied this power into a comedy career that's now in its sixth decade.

Teaming with Richard Pryor in the 1970s, he helped pen some of the controversial comic's most famous bits, including the infamous word-association skit with Chevy Chase from Pryor's appearance on Saturday Night Live.

"Everyone had told me about Richard," Mooney recalls about their first meeting.

"So I looked him up. I studied him."

You have to understand a person in order to write comedy for them. "And you have to have love for them."

Mooney later became head writer for the first season of sketch comedy show In Living Color. But the power of truthisms has always been at the core of whatever endeavor he undertakes.

From his first paid gig telling jokes under a big top, to circumventing his teacher's refusal to let him write for the school paper by starting his own, more popular paper.

"Everyone from school teachers, to coaches ... they're all their own chief, they all want to run it. It's their stage. They don't want like you to run it."

Mooney's career got a second wind at the beginning of the new millennium with a handful of short appearances on comedian Dave Chappelle's program, Chappelle's Show. The segments "Ask a Black Dude" and "Negrodamus" — a riff on Nostradamus — became some of the most popular segments on the program. Not that Mooney was surprised. "I'm never surprised," he says. "It's very hard to surprise me, because I always do my homework."

Filling in

## How he seized the day

Mooney got his start telling jokes at the circus, but his first real gig came about as a fluke.

Mooney went to school with Joe and Eddie, "the Black Smothers Brothers." One long weekend in San Francisco their opening act, Ronnie Schell, couldn't make it. With the agencies closed they turned to their friend for help. Mooney seized on the opportunity, not only doing Schell's act, but telling Schell's jokes while impersonating the man. Word quickly spread amongst comics.

"They thought it was the funniest thing in the world."

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# The takedown of the mask of Georges

**Documentary.** Former UFC champion reveals his obsessive compulsive disorder, how it drove him to succeed, and what makes him tick in new film

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

One would expect it'd take a lot to embarrass someone who gets paid millions to beat people up for a living but ultimate fighting champion Georges St-Pierre admits blushing when seeing his rural father fake a more esteemed French accent in the latest documentary about his life.

"A lot of scenes like this I would've changed but (producers) didn't want to," admitted St-Pierre during a recent interview to promote the documentary Takedown: The DNA of GSP.

Georges St-Pierre credits his success in mixed martial arts with his obsessive-compulsive disorder. CONTRIBUTED

"There were a lot of things I didn't want to show (but) this is not my movie; I didn't decide what to show; the (filmmakers) decided."

Premiering this Thursday at select theatres Canada-wide, the slick documentary that covers the French Canadian's rise to UFC champ, his fateful knee injury and stunning comeback is also very personal — illustrated by GSP's own acceptance that he suffers from obsessive compulsive disorder.

"My obsessive compulsive problem that I have (is) good when you're an athlete," said St-Pierre.

"I'm crazy but that's what you need to be champion in the sport.

"All my life I've been (focused on) how I can make myself a better martial artist — everything I've learned in my life has been for that purpose."

Certainly those habits are on display in Takedown as fans learn how sleep deprivation, avoiding sidewalk cracks and even heavily concentrated fury has turned GSP into a remarkable mixed martial artist.

In fact, the unpretentious pugilist insists even vacating the title after a controversial win in November was a response to his own affliction.

"I stopped because mentally, my health was in jeopardy," said St-Pierre.

"I've never been a victim in my life," he adds.

"Everything I've done, I did it by choice.

"Nobody ever forced me to fight. I did it because I wanted to and that's the same reason why I'm taking a break — because I want to."

**Georges on Georges**

- **Georges St-Pierre on revealing his obsessive compulsive disorder in the film.** "It's kind of boring to be a normal person," said St-Pierre. "I surround myself with crazy people and I'm crazy myself so it makes us fun...we all have the ingredients for a good movie."
- **You don't have to like fighting.** "I don't force you to like what I do for a living, I just don't want to have to fight for the legitimacy of my sport" said St-Pierre. "That's all I ask, is to not denigrate the sport."

**Watch it**

- **Takedown: The DNA of GSP screens in Cineplex theatres across Canada on February 20, 22 and 24.**

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Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Wedding fireworks for Katy and John?

Katy Perry is sending the gossip world into a tizzy by sporting the same diamond ring on a very suspicious finger for the past few days. The first time, we all chalked it up to her being fashionable — but then the singer had the audacity to wear the art-deco-influenced ring yet again at the Elle Style Awards on Tuesday in London. "What does it mmmmeeee-aaaannnnn?" your brain is undoubtedly asking, since we are all conditioned to be concerned with this for some reason. We wish we knew — so far both the Perry and John Mayer camps are being mum on the situation. One thing is for sure: The only way she could troll us any harder is if she started wearing a fake baby bump.

## Ellen and Portia don't need a ring to prove their love

Ellen DeGeneres is eager to put to rest rumours circulating in some tabloids that her marriage to Portia De Rossi is on the rocks. "The tabloids had a photo of Portia not wearing her wedding ring. She goes, 'I didn't wear it because when I ride horses and I'm holding the reins, it gives me a blister,'" DeGeneres explains to People magazine. "The truth is — and this is corny — I fall more in love with Portia all the time. I really do. She surprises me all the time. It's what anyone experiences when you find that person that gets you."

Ellen DeGeneres

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

**The Word**

## *Hey LaBeouf, why don't you #STARTCREATING your own stuff?*

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

Shia LaBeouf has been all over the tabloids and the blogs and the Twitter lately. But for those who don't follow celebrity gossip on any medium, Shia has them covered too — they just have to look up into the sky.

LaBeouf has taken to skywriting for the third time, hiring planes to write "#STARTCREATING" in the sky above Los Angeles, according to E! Online. His previous messages were "I am sorry Daniel Clowes" and "#STOPCREATING," both in January.

It's great to have Shia's permission to start making stuff. I hope he follows his own advice, since he's never created anything in particular. LaBoeuf's meltdown/art project/generous subsidy to L.A.'s skywriting industry began in December, when his short film, HowardCantour.com, was revealed to be a ripoff of a Daniel Clowes comic, Justin M. Damiano. Since then, he's tweeted a slew of plagiarized quotes and apologies, hired the aforementioned skywriters, and last week held an "art installation" in which he sat in a room with a paper bag over his head reading "I am not famous anymore" while weeping — which some would say was a ripoff of Marina Abromović's The Artist is Present.

In case you can't tell, I am heartily sick of this kid — he ripped an artist off, got caught, and he's been trying to reposition his screw-up as art ever since. I would rather see Justin Bieber get an Oscar than hear another word from LaBeouf on the subject.

**Twitter**

**@ChloeGMoretz**
strangest thing just happened to my phone it wouldn't take a charge so i did a full restart and bingo.. charging.. weird.

**@NiallOfficial**
First time we have all been together for a while now! lookin forward t seeing the lads ! #BRITs2014

**@josswhedon**
Stairs are so serious

Patrick Stewart

## Patrick Stewart has a gay old time with Guardian gaffe

At least Patrick Stewart has a decent sense of humour. The former Star Trek: the Next Generation star was misidentified as gay by the Guardian in an article about X-Men co-star Ellen Page's recent coming out. "The third paragraph originally said, 'Some gay people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart, think Page's coming out speech is newsworthy.' This should have read, 'Some people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart,'" a statement from the newspaper read. Stewart, who married longtime girlfriend Sunny Ozell in September, took it in stride, posting to Twitter, "It makes for a nice change. At least I didn't wake up to the Internet telling me I was dead again."

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LIFE 3

# The runway midway

The fashion industry's finest have flocked to New York and London these past two weeks as part of Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Month. Before they pick up their passports and jet away on the Paris and Milan legs of the journey, here's a taste of what Metro's gurus of glam have witnessed from fashion's front lines thus far.

METRO WORLD NEWS

## Tommy Hilfiger (NYC)

The first look? Surprise, surprise, it's plaid. An olive parka, check dress and hiking boots opens the lineup of rugged, outdoorsy looks. The vaguely vintage-flavoured duffle coats, shearling jackets, chunky sweaters, Fair Isle knits and fleece dresses have a sporty athleticism to them that imply Tommy's girls do more than sip hot chocolate inside a lodge.

**Major trends:** Blanket references in the form of dresses, skirts and coats.

**What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Durable, classic winter wear that really does marry fashion and function.

## Marc by Marc Jacobs (NYC)

The autumn/winter '14 girl is all flamboyant sportiness, dressed for a club night in a mix of ninja and BMX gear. Plus all of the sneaker comebacks we've seen in the past year were rendered forgettable thanks to a single shoe in Crayola shades of red and blue that is part raver, part spaceman.

The major trends: Plays on volume — blanket-style wraps, layering and wide leg trousers.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Judging by my social media feeds, the shoes were the most memorable takeaway from the show. The more "out there" the sneaker the better.

## Bora Aksu (London)

After a handful of monochrome skirted looks, colour appears in the form of Barbie pink. Think Lolita-meets-Victorian-meets-plastic-fantastic. And get ready to embrace that horrible '90s sequin stretch fabric: it's back, sliced into jackets, waistlines and fishtail pencil skirts. Ponchos and capes are popular up top — only, "floatier" than we've seen them before. Here they're more like mosquito nets. Pretty ones, mind you.

**The playlist:** Lively flamenco with a Carla Bruni interlude.

**The key trends:** Pink, ponchos, A-line skirts

## Issa (London)

The strength, and what unites this collection, with its varying motifs of stamped flowers, bulbous knits and lattice prints, is the size of it all. Everything is big, from the wafting, blanket-like coats that much of the audience is already wearing to the Balenciaga-esque rounded sleeves on outerwear and tops. My standout piece — the wackiest of all the wearable Issa fare — is a zigzag printed monochrome jacket with perfectly curved shoulders.

**The major trends:** Ponchos and oversized, rounded coats.

**What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time:** Silhouette is going to factor into your buying purchases more than usual.

## Vivienne Westwood (London)

This show was about vintage Vivienne Westwood Red Label. Even the colour palette is true to the brand name, with a tongue-in-cheek heart-shaped suit. The looks were positively pared-down: a nostalgic retrospective of eras gone by with headscarves, roomy overcoats, and those ubiquitous Westwood cocktail dresses — all very commercially viable with enough of a dash of the Dame's kook.

**The scene:** Vivienne Westwood's faithful friends.

**What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time:** Granny chic with headscarves and oversized practical coats.

# Canadian street style

**Spotted in: Toronto**

## Name: Kerry

## Age: 27

## Occupation: Co-founder, Rockford Peach

**What she's wearing:**
Old pilots shearling coat I bought a couple years ago in Kensington (inspired by my Dad), old polo sweater that was cropped, All Saints pants, Stuart Weitzman boots, vintage belt and bag.

**Her inspiration:**
I dress with instinct, which could very well start with the music that I wake up to. The truth is I like anything that has lived a little bit; clothes that tell a story or move me somehow, and a little oversize never hurt anyone. Imperfection is wonderful. There's nothing wrong with an unbuttoned shirt, messy hair, or that hole in the armpit from an ex-lovers old T-shirt. Oh and smiling is key!

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# Stefano serves a cutlet above the rest

**This recipe serves four.** PHOTOS LEILA ASHTARI

"Veal cutlets were in regular dinner rotation at home when I was young," writes Stefano Faita in his book In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita. "I was always so amazed at how quickly my mom made them and got them on the table — they cook up in no time.

"Serve your cutlets with a light side dish, such as sautéed cherry tomatoes (the recipe is right here!), or put a cutlet on a bun with some marinated artichokes. Yum!"

**Ingredients**

**Breaded Veal Cutlets**
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) fresh or dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tsp (10 ml) chopped fresh herbs, such as sage or rosemary
- 4 large veal cutlets, pounded 1/4 inch (5 mm) thick
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil

**Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes**
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) vine-ripened cherry tomatoes
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sugar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each chopped fresh Italian parsley, marjoram, thyme

## FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

**1.** To make the Breaded Veal Cutlets: Prepare a breading station by arranging 3 shallow dishes or pie plates with the following: flour in the first; eggs beaten with milk in the second; and bread crumbs, Parmesan and herbs stirred together in the third.

**2.** Season veal with salt and pepper. Dredge cutlets first in flour, then in egg mixture and lastly in bread crumb mixture.

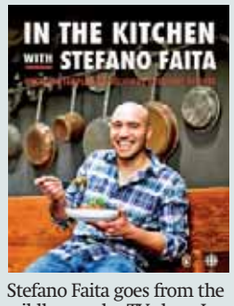
**3.** In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter with oil. When oil is hot, add cutlets and brown on each side, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

**4.** While cutlets are cooking, make the Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes: In a large sauté pan, melt butter over medium-high heat. When butter is golden brown, add tomatoes. Sprinkle them with sugar and season with salt and pepper. Increase heat to high and sauté tomatoes, stirring gently, until they start to soften and skins begin to wrinkle, about 5 minutes. Add the parsley, marjoram and thyme, mix well and remove from heat.

**5.** Serve cutlets with Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes. **FROM IN THE KITCHEN WITH STEFANO FAITA BY STEFANO FAITA. COPYRIGHT CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION/STEFANO FAITA INC., 2013. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF PENGUIN CANADA BOOKS INC.**

**Cookbook of the Week**

## Effortless meals




Stefano Faita goes from the wildly popular TV show In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita to an easy-to-follow book of the same name. The collection includes Faita's favourite recipes (think Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Mango Cabbage Slaw, Cajun Home Fries and more) from the series as well as extra trips. The book covers everything from breakfast and dinner to snacks, salads, desserts and more. **METRO**

# T.O. empty-nesters prefer a low profile when it comes to condos

**Stacked townhomes.**
Mid-rise condo style gains in popularity with lower square-footage and maintenance costs

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

An example of stacked townhomes is Heathwood Homes' recently announced Hampshire Mews urban towns in Richmond Hill. CONTRIBUTED

Toronto has a love affair with mid-rise condominiums. These low-profile alternatives to high-rise living are springing up across the GTA, often located on the edge of established residential neighbourhoods. A mid-rise is considered to be a building ranging from two to 16 storeys in height. The structures are less obtrusive than high-rise towers and there's less impact on the infrastructure of an existing neighbourhood.

Shane Fenton is the VP of Reserve Properties, which specializes in boutique mid-rise designs. He says they're popular with empty-nesters and their children, who have established a long-lasting connection to their neighbourhoods. "What people are loving about mid-rises is that it gives them the alternative form of living in terms of being able to be in a condominium. And yet they still get to stay close to or connected to the residential communities that they've got connections within."

Fenton says that not everyone wants to live in a high-rise tower, preferring the intimacy of mid-rise.

**Sense of community**

**"People would rather be part of a 50- or 80-unit building then a 500- or 800-unit building and they like that idea and ability of knowing who their neighbors are and having that sense of community within the building."**

Shane Fenton, VP of Reserve Properties

"We're also seeing a sense of demand for wanting to be in smaller projects. Because of that desire for the sense of community, people would rather be part of a 50- or 80-unit building then a 500- or 800-unit building and they like that idea and ability of knowing who their neighbors are and having that sense of community within the building."

One form of mid-rise development that has gained popularity in the GTA is the stacked townhome condo. "It is a condominium per se, but the reason they call them stacks is because they are units that are typically on top of each other." explains TheRedPin realty co-founder Tarik Gidamy. Its most common form is a two-storey unit on top of a two-storey unit built in height-restricted areas.

"Stacks" have the advantage of a house-form in that there's an upstairs and a downstairs, but it works on a condominium model. There are no costly common areas, lobbies or amenities, so cost per square foot is lower than a traditional high-rise tower. Also, maintenance fees are lower.

Gidamy says the units are quite popular and sell quickly. "There is a lot of cost-savings associated with it. In terms of density or unit sizes, they range from as small as a regular one bedroom at the five hundred-square-foot level that would be like a ground-floor unit, and on top of that you would find 800 to 1,200 square-foot units in the form of two storeys."

**Legal Matters**

## *Contract worth reviewing*

**We are purchasing a newly built home that will be ready in 2015. Having just signed the contract, our friend has indicated that we should get it reviewed by a lawyer. Is there any need for this or is the contract all wrapped up?**

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
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When you purchase a newly built home (or one scheduled to be built) you have a 10-day cooling-off period in which you can consider the transaction in case you have second thoughts. During this time, it is advisable to have a real estate lawyer review the agreement to make sure there is nothing out of the ordinary. Builders contracts are long and complicated documents that require a legal professional to review. If you find something you can't accept or just get cold feet you can walk away from this contract within 10 days.

Overall, the contract is not something that can be changed drastically. There are small points that a builder will change if requested but the document is fairly standard. I approach my clients at this stage in my review of the agreement, as more of a education process so that they know what their rights and obligations are under the contract.

I will go over the basic points to take away from this review in a future column.

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# Make a bedroom you want to lie in

**Snooze control.** Create a cocoon that's perfect for you with designer tips on breaking the usual decorating rules

We're told a well-designed master bedroom should be an oasis of romantic calm. It's also supposed to be the practical place where you store clothing and get a good night's sleep, and it may also be where you watch television, pay bills and even set up a home office.

That's a lot to ask of a single room.

On the bright side, says interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, you have plenty of decorating freedom. "Since bedrooms are all about self-expression and comforts," he says, "you can break the rules as much as you want."

We've asked Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions, and two other design experts — Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design and Molly Luetkemeyer of M. Design Interiors — for tips on breaking those rules with style to create the ultimate master bedroom.

### Only the calmest colours

Forget trendy shades or your favourite bright colours. Burnham advises sticking to a soothing palette of ivory and white, evoking a luxury hotel room. "You can layer colour into that if you want to," she says.

If your idea of peace and quiet involves deeper colours, Flynn suggests navy blues or black-brown tones.

And if you really want bolder colour or patterns, Luetkemeyer recommends using a single pattern throughout your bedroom. This "en suite" look involves using the same fabric for curtains and bedspread, and even covering the walls in the same pattern.

"Even a busy pattern won't feel too chaotic if you're consistent" in using it throughout the room, she says.

### Big beds in small rooms

Think your medium-size or small bedroom can't handle a gorgeous four-poster bed? Burnham says a bed like that can serve as "a statement piece" that brings lots of style. It actually frees up space, because you won't need any extra decorative pieces of furniture for pizzazz.

Flynn agrees, as long as the bedroom isn't extremely small and the nightstands are in proportion. One of his pet peeves is a large bed flanked by tiny tables, which can make the tables look like they belong in a dollhouse.

### Soften everything

These designers are seeing a trend toward upholstered beds and headboards, and even upholstery fabric used on walls.

"It's this idea that you're being completely cocooned and buffered from the world," Luetkemeyer says. For some clients, she has also upholstered the inside of armoires or other storage pieces to create a complete sense of softness.

With softness in mind, Flynn suggests using more than one layer of window treatment: "I usually layer black-out shades with custom, pleated drapery panels," he says. "This softens the hard edges of the room, helps with noise control and also allows the homeowner to sleep in as late as they want."

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn layered his windows with black-out shades from Texton and custom drapery panels lined with blackout liner in his own bedroom in Los Angeles, to help control noise from busy, nightlife-centric Sunset Boulevard and light from the bright California sun. ZEKE RUELAS/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you're worried that all that softness will make the room too feminine, Burnham suggests adding just a few sharper, cleaner lines for balance. Choose sleek, mid-century vintage lamps to place on either side of an upholstered bed. Or opt for a dresser with simple, clean lines rather than a piece that's ornate and curvy.

### Banish electronics

It may sound radical, but Luetkemeyer hears from clients now that they're ready to remove the TV and all gadgets from their bedrooms. "People are saying, 'I'm in such overload all day long, and I'm reachable within an inch of myself. I want to have one place where it's really mine.'"

Burnham sees the beginnings of a similar trend, though for many people the habit of checking email in bed or watching TV before they go to sleep is a hard one to kick.

If you have a desk in your bedroom, consider relocating it. And try plugging in your phone and other gadgets somewhere else in your home at night so you won't be tempted to check them.

### Skip nightstands

Flynn suggests using 30-inch-tall dressers or chests instead of traditional nightstands: "I'll hit up flea markets and find two different chests with very similar proportions," he says, using these less expensive pieces to flank a more expensive custom headboard or platform bed.

Luetkemeyer agrees that closed storage at bedside is a wise move for most people. It keeps necessities handy, but hides clutter to make your sleeping area look organized even when it isn't.

### Pendants and sconces instead of table lamps

Chandeliers are often used in dining rooms and entryways to add glamour and drama. Flynn's tip? They "work just as well in bedrooms."

"I often install pendant lights over nightstands instead of using table lamps," he says, "especially if the headboard is tall and dramatic. Whenever possible, I try to use sculptural pendants which introduce interesting shapes to the room and I always, 100 per cent of the time, install them on dimmers." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Home improvement

## RenoMark can help relieve your renovation worries

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

Home renovation has experienced a rise in popularity in recent years as an alternative to buying a new home.

While I understand the excitement that comes with renovating your home or condominium, it is very important to do your homework and ensure that you hire a professional contractor to ensure your home receives the renovation it deserves.

More and more homeowners looking to improve the value of their homes, as well as their quality of life, are opting for renovation. In fact, home renovation is a $13-billion per year industry just in the GTA alone.

Our region's renovation and custom-building industry is a key contributor to the economic growth of our region, creating close to 100,000 jobs every year. Those jobs pay out more than $5 billion in wages, which show up as purchases across the GTA.

BILD is proudly affiliated with the national RenoMark program, which our association first launched right here in Toronto in 2001. The program helped homeowners identify and hire professional renovation contractors who have agreed to a renovation-specific code of conduct. This means they can rely on their contractor to offer at least two years' warranty, carry $2-million liability insurance and carry out all work after signing a detailed, written contract.

The program became so popular that it was adopted nationwide. Today RenoMark is available in nine provinces and more than 40 communities across Canada.

If you are thinking about renovating your home or condominium this year, visit renomark.ca to use our searchable database of professional renovators to determine if the RenoMark program is right for you. The website offers numerous additional resources, including the RenoGuide — a five-step guide to a worry-free renovation.

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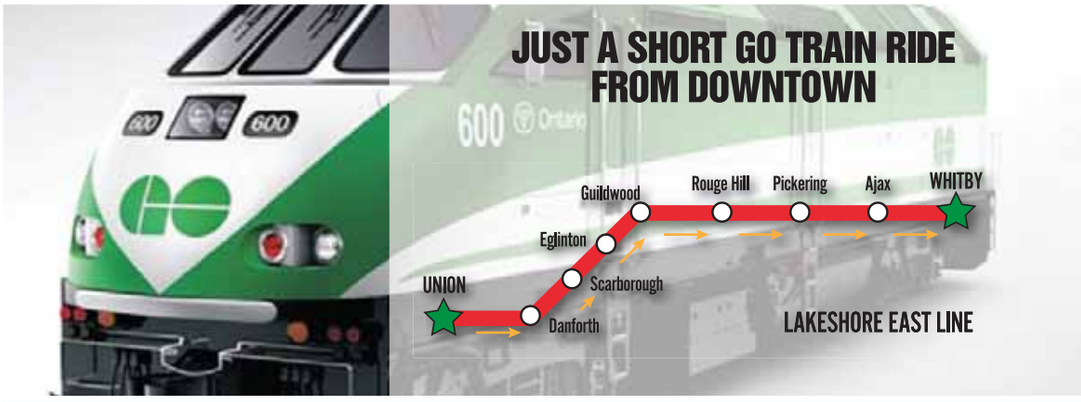


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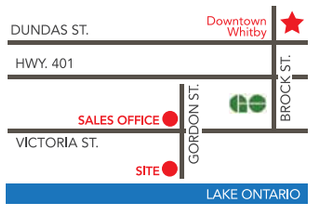


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Flea markets are a great place to hunt for reclaimed barn doors. ISTOCK

# Barn doors add rustic warmth

**DIY.** Reclaimed wood is an easy way to give the home a handsome hint of pastoral charm

Every home could use a little country charm, and nothing says country living like a rustic sliding barn door. An inspiring alternative to French doors, this DIY project is a great way to inject natural wood tones into your home or create a popping statement piece with a vivid paint job.

### Find a door that will measure up

For the most authentic look, check out weekend markets or second-hand stores for a reclaimed barn door. It should be slightly larger than the doorway, allowing for a few inches of overlap on either side and at the top. If you're unable to find a proper fit, it's easy to build a custom door after a quick trip to the hardware store. For really large openings, build two doors that will slide together to meet in the middle.

### Mount the track above the doorway

Once a door has been chosen, it's time to purchase the hardware necessary to make it glide effortlessly. The right hardware will ensure the door stays safely secured upright and tucked closely to the wall. The best way to achieve this is with a mounted track above the doorway. This option puts a lot of weight on the wall so it's best to screw the mount in to studs.

### Install the track brackets

The track brackets are installed to the top of the door and will allow it to hang from the track with rollers. Install one bracket to the top corners of the door following the manufacturer's instructions. A regular sized door will likely only require two rollers but check with a professional if you're unsure.

### Attach the rollers and hang the door

Once the brackets are installed, connect the rollers and fasten tightly. With the help of a friend or family member, stand the door upright and slowly lower the rollers on to the track. The track should remain stable and not flex under the weight of the door. Give your new barn door a few tries and do your best line dance move to celebrate.

**Rescue Renovation**

- For more renovation ideas, tune in to Rescue Renovation on Thursdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

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# Hear your tunes in style

With so many music lovers downloading albums to their phones and mp3 players, there's no longer the need for large, bulky stereo systems to be displayed in the home. Want to give your latest download some big-time sound? Here's a selection of speakers that will suit any home-decor style.

**DESIGN CENTRE**
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Be the life of the party in any room while getting quality acoustics and great design. This little picnic basket of sound can go from room to room and has won dozens of design awards. Bang & Olufsen's Beolit12, $880, bangolufsen.com.

Add glam to any book case with crystal-encrusted bird speakers (also the perfect accompaniment for a perfume bottle collection in the bathroom). ChicBuds Crystal Fauvette Bird Speaker, $46 each, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

Breakdancing not required, but bring the '80s back with iHome's rubber and metal Boombox Wireless Speaker, $220, urbanoutfitters.com.

An old-time music centre that replicates a vintage airplane control panel. Records, tapes, CDs and mp3 capabilities; great for any dad. Innovative Technology Aviator Turntable Wooden Music Centre, $200, thesource.ca.

Croon to your favourite tunes in reclaimed style that would look just as chic in a library as it would in a loft space. Gramophone iPad docking station with dry oak base, $300, restorationhardware.com.

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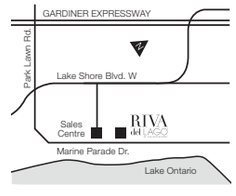


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- **Sizes.** From 384 to 898 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** 1 bedroom from $149,990
- **Phone.** 416-430-0003
- **Website.** meliving.ca

A rendering of the lobby at ME Living Condos. CONTRIBUTED

## The project overview

A new community that combines contemporary urban design with fine lifestyle amenities at a location bursting with life. ME stands for Markham + Ellesmere, a neighbourhood that offers a huge selection of retail, services and recreational options.

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# What's hot on the condo market

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Condo seminar: Daniels rent-to-own program at NY2 condominiums, Bayview and Sheppard. Head on up to 27 Rean Drive, Unit 10. Feb. 22 starting at 11 a.m. **TO RSVP FOR THIS FREE EVENT, CALL 416-221-3939 OR VISIT NY2CONDOS.COM.**

### 2. Downtown

Open House: Sixty Colborne condos, downtown in the St. Lawrence Market area, Feb. 22 and 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. **CALL 416-601-0060 OR VISIT SIXTYCOLBORNE.COM FOR MORE INFO.**

### 3. Mississauga

Open House: Peppermill Place condos in Rockwood Village, East Mississauga. Two beds, two baths. Located at 1500 Grazia Crt., Feb. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. **CALL 905-278-8866 FOR MORE INFO.**

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# Humph Day in Sochi

**Women's bobsled.**
Canadian duo successfully defends its title won in Vancouver

Canada's Kaillie Humphries, left, and Heather Moyse celebrate winning the gold medal in women's bobsled at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, on Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kaillie Humphries arrived at the start house for her final bobsled run at the Sochi Games not knowing how much time she needed to make up to catch the leaders.

Her brakeman, Heather Moyse, knew but wasn't saying. She wanted her pilot to worry about her own run and not the clock.

"I just looked at her and I said, 'It's possible,'" Moyse said. "That's all Kaillie needed to know, that the gap wasn't closed but it was possible."

Humphries visualized the 17-turn track in her mind and set out to nail another consistent run. She delivered just that Wednesday night and it was enough to give them a second straight Olympic title, the first to achieve that goal.

"When I don't know times, I mean, ignorance is bliss," Humphries said.

The Canada 1 sled had a gap of 11-100ths of a second to close entering the final run. Moyse delivered with a strong push at the start, then Humphries took over from there.

Both were elated at the finish and satisfied knowing they did everything they could.

"For both of us to know we pushed the hardest we could have possibly pushed, I drove the track the very best that I knew how, when we got out of the sled on that fourth run both her and I — without even having to really say anything — knew that we had done everything in our power," Humphries said.

With at least a silver locked up, they had a nervous two-minute wait in the finish area as Elana Meyers and Lauryn Williams completed their final run.

"I never wish bad on people but I was thinking, 'Just make a few mistakes, please,'" Humphries said.

The pressure seemed to get to the Americans, who had a few wobbles down the Sanki Sliding Center track and came up one-10th of a second short.

It would be gold once again for the Canadians, who were underdogs when they won at the Vancouver Games four years ago but favourites this time around.

Humphries, from Calgary, and Moyse, from Summerside, P.E.I., finished with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds. Meyers and Williams were second in 3:50.71.

The United States also won bronze, with Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans finishing a full second off the lead in 3:51.61. Edmonton's Jenny Ciochetti and Chelsea Valois of Zenon Park, Sask., were 13th in the Canada 2 sled in 3:54.49.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Quoted**

**"Winning gold is amazing, but walking away satisfied is better. After the third run I knew that if we did the business we could be on top."**

**Kaillie Humphries** on overcoming a time deficit to win the women's bobsled.

# Curling gold medal within Jacobs' reach

Canada skip Brad Jacobs throws a rock during a semifinal curling match against China on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brad Jacobs, Ryan Fry, E.J. Harnden and Ryan Harnden allowed themselves a few minutes — and just a few — to revel in securing an Olympic medal in men's curling for Canada.

The Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., team knew after its 10-6 semifinal win Wednesday over China the glow was finite. Canadians are as demanding of their curlers as they are of their hockey players at the Winter Olympics.

There is a gold medal for the taking Friday. Canada must elbow aside two-time world champion David Murdoch of Britain to get it and will start the game with hammer.

"To get another medal for all of Team Canada is a great feeling, but at the same time, we want to come out and we want to get that gold," Jacobs said.

Rejuvenated from a two-day break, the Canadians unveiled their various weapons — finesse shots and hits — for their best game of the tournament against China.

"There's a little bit of brilliance left in us for that final game," second Harnden said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Double-gold hope**

**Canada is chasing double curling gold in Sochi. Jennifer Jones' Winnipeg rink meets Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson in Thursday's championship game.**

- Canadian downed Britain's Eve Muirhead 6-4 in their semifinal earlier Wednesday.

4 SPORTS

# Hey Yzerman, 'you're lucky'

**Goalier than thou.** Lightning prospect stands on his head in front of future GM as Latvians almost slay Goliath in Sochi

BRUCE BENNETT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As Kristers Gudlevskis turned aside shot after shot, Sidney Crosby and his teammates wondered what it would take to beat the Latvian goaltender.

"Besides picking the puck up and throwing it in the net, what could you tell someone to do in those situations?" Crosby said.

Team Canada didn't quite have to resort to that, surviving a historic upset bid by Latvia with a 2-1 win in the quarter-finals of the Olympics on the strength of a late power-play goal by Shea Weber.

Despite Gudlevskis making 55 saves on 57 shots, coach Mike Babcock didn't sense any uneasiness on his bench. It's his hope that being in a tight, frustrating game will help Canada as it advances to face the rival Americans in the semifinals Friday.

"We just thought if we kept doing it, we'd get our chances, we'd get a break, we'd score a goal," Babcock said. "Did I want to win 7-1? Absolutely. Do I think it's better for my team that we won the way we did? For sure."

The next one looks tougher on paper than any of Canada's first four games in Sochi. At first glance, a matchup against 11th-seeded Latvia didn't seem like it would be much of a test for the gold-medal favourites.

Canada, Babcock insisted, did not take Latvia lightly. Watching coach Ted Nolan's group eliminate Switzerland should have been enough of a wake-up call.

Still, it was hard to expect this. After Patrick Sharp gave Canada a lead at the 13:37 mark of the first period, it looked like Gudlevskis wouldn't get beat again and the frustration crept in.

"It can get to you, I think, a little bit," winger Patrick Marleau said. "But you just got to keep persisting and think that next one's going to go in."

It didn't help that most of the game elapsed with a tie score after Lauris Darzins got a breakaway and beat Carey Price two minutes after Sharp's goal. And it didn't help that Canada played almost two full periods without John Tavares, who was hit by Arturs Kulda and is out for the rest of the tournament with a knee injury.

A controversial no-goal call in the third period that could have led to a Canadian penalty shot only added to the drama.

All the while, Canada had Gudlevskis and the Latvians under siege but couldn't break through. It's one thing to squeeze the sticks a little too tight, but another one altogether to have a goalie looking like a brick wall.

"Coming into this tournament we talked about facing adversity," defenceman Duncan Keith said. "There was a little bit there throughout this game. We didn't want to get frustrated with the score being tied."

Told he scared the entire country of Canada on Wednesday night, Gudlevskis said: "I hope so." Asked what he'd say to Team Canada executive director and Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman, the 21-year-old responded: "You're lucky."

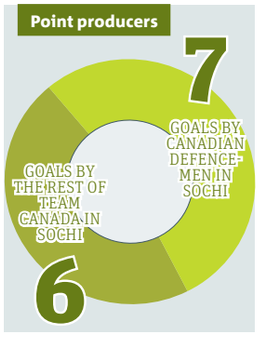
In Nolan's eyes, Canada was lucky to take the lead at 13:06 of the third after a slashing penalty was called on Georgijs Pujacs. But Babcock saw it more as the following-through on a game plan.

"We just thought we were going to win," he said. "We just talked about being patient and staying the course, not getting in a hurry, not forcing anything. If we did that we thought we'd be fine, and in the end we were."

That was one lesson Canada gleaned from this scare and almost joining the 2002 Swedish team that lost to Belarus in Salt Lake City in an infamous chapter of the Olympic history books: Winning matters more at this stage than how it happens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Point producers**




**Americans up next**

**"They're obviously the favourite coming into the tournament, and we've opened up a lot of eyes with our play, but we have more in the tank to give and to show."**

**Max Pacioretty on the looming rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game with Canada.** Pacioretty's Americans notched a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic on Wednesday. Canada and the U.S. meet in the semifinal on Friday.

**Cross-border semi No. 2**

**"I think the Russian team will win."**

**Sweden coach Par Marts** making a prediction after his team's 5-0 win over Slovenia, but before the Russia-Finland quarter-final. Finland coach Erkka Westerlund said "no comment" when asked for his reaction to what Marts said, and Finn forward Olli Jokinen added: "I don't really care." The Scandinavian rivals meet in the semifinals Friday.

**'You never know'**

## Russian hopes Finn-ished

After Russia's men's hockey loss in the quarter-finals to Finland, most of Russia's players rushed through a mixed zone with TV cameras and reporters without stopping, waving off requests to verbalize their disappointment in losing their medal chances in the Sochi Games.

The players who did stop were brief. And Finland, not surprisingly, had a little more to say, with many sentiments summed up by forward Teemu Selanne:

"The experts are wrong many times — and I love it."

Still, as happy as the Finns were, they did show some sympathy for a Russian team that was carrying such high expectations.

Selanne: "I'm a little bit sad also for them. Obviously, they had a big dream to win the gold medal here and then it doesn't work so it's kind of disappointing in many ways because that would be a great story. But again, it's proving to the hockey world that you never know."

Russia's Alex Ovechkin only had this to say: "No emotion right now."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian hockey fans at the end of Russia's loss to Finland on Wednesday in Sochi. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Game of his life**

**"We were disappointed, because we tried to make a miracle today and we just couldn't do it."**

**Latvia's Kristers Gudlevskis,** who stopped 55 shots and gave hockey fans across Canada cause for major concern on Wednesday afternoon.

**Questionable call**

## C'mon ref!

It looked like Canada took the lead 8:27 into the third, but a controversial call kept it 1-1. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Marleau got the puck to the goal-line and almost over, but Latvia defenceman Kristaps Sotnieks gloved it to keep it out.

The ruling was that the puck did not fully cross the line, and Canada did not get a penalty shot because that cannot be awarded on review.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Experience on Canada's side vs. speedy U.S. team

**Women's hockey.**
## Canuck squad will rely on leadership of vets when they take on rivals

To win a fourth straight Olympic gold medal, the Canadian women's hockey team must leverage its big-game experience up front to overcome the superior speed of the United States.

Canada's dozen forwards have a combined 18 previous appearances at the Winter Olympics among them compared to seven among the American forwards.

On defence, previous Winter Games experience is equal between the two countries. Both sides possess seasoned goaltenders.

Caroline Ouellette is in pursuit of her fourth Olympic gold medal.
BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

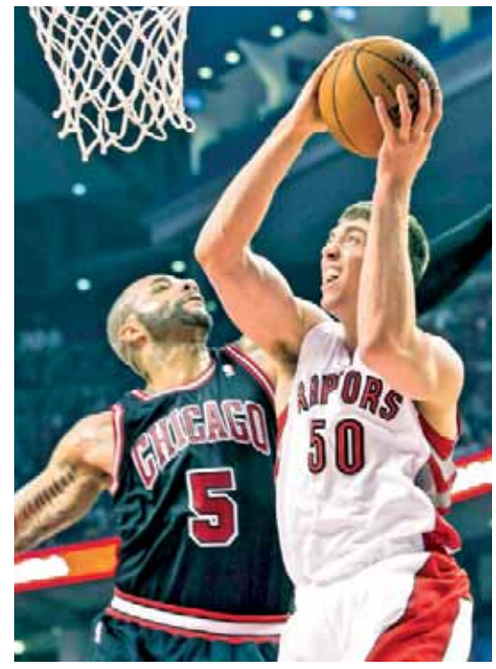
Thursday's final at the Bolshoy Ice Dome is about executing in a vice of pressure for both countries.

The U.S. wants to reclaim the gold it won in 1998 and this year's team is young and relentless.

If there is a crack in their armour, it was revealed in Canada's 3-2 victory in the preliminary round. Taking a 1-0 lead into the third period, the Americans lost their composure when Canada equalized early in the frame and pulled ahead less than two minutes later.

So it will be up to three-time gold medallists Caroline Ouellette, Hayley Wickenheiser and Jayna Hefford, as well as third-time Olympians Meghan Agosta-Marciano and Gillian Apps to shepherd Canada through the defining moment or moments of the gold-medal game.

They are "great players who have been in an Olympics or two," coach Kevin Dineen said. "They've sat in this seat before." THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Raptors gored by Bulls

Raptors forward Tyler Hansbrough drives to the basket against the Bulls' Carlos Boozer at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night. The Bulls won 94-92 to snap the Raptors' three-game winning streak. For the story, go to metronews.ca. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

## Homer can afford many doughnuts with new contract

Starter Homer Bailey agreed to a $105-million, six-year contract on Wednesday that avoids arbitration and will help the Cincinnati Reds with their cash flow by deferring some of the salary for short periods.

Homer Bailey
GETTY IMAGES

The deal includes a $25-million mutual option for 2020 with a $5-million buyout.

The 27-year-old was coming off a season that included his second no-hitter. Bailey went 11-12 with a 3.49 ERA, leaving him in line for a big salary increase.

The Reds' rotation includes five players under the age of 30: Johnny Cueto (28), Mat Latos (26), Bailey (27), Mike Leake (26) and left-hander Tony Cingrani (24).
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MEDALS

| Nation | G | S | B | Tot. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States of America | 7 | 5 | 11 | 23 |
| Russian Federation | 6 | 9 | 7 | 22 |
| Netherlands | 6 | 7 | 9 | 22 |
| Norway | 9 | 4 | 7 | 20 |
| **Canada** | **5** | **9** | **4** | **18** |
| Germany | 8 | 3 | 4 | 15 |

## WHAT CANADA DID

### WEDNESDAY

**ALPINE SKIING**
**Men's Giant Slalom -** Trevor Philp of Calgary was the top Canadian after the two runs, placing 25th (two minutes 49.55 seconds, +4.26 seconds). Phil Brown of Toronto was 29th (2:49.91) and Morgan Pridy of Whistler, B.C., was 33rd (2:51.96).

**BIATHLON**
**2x6km Women + 2x7.5 km Men Mixed Relay -** The Canadian team of Megan Imrie (Falcon Lake, Man.), Rosanna Crawford (Canmore, Alta.), Brendan Green (Hay River, N.W.T.) and Scott Perras (Regina), finished 12th with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and 27.7 seconds, four minutes and 10.7 seconds behind gold medallist Norway.

**BOBSLEIGH**
**Women's -** Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside. P.E.I.), successfully defended their **gold medal** with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds, erasing a 0.23 deficit going into the final two runs to beat United States 1 by a tenth-of-a-second. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) placed 13th (3:54.49).

**CROSS-COUNTRY**
**Ladies' Team Sprint ClassicSemifinal -** Daria Gaiazova (Banff, Alta.) and Perianne Jones (Almonte, Ont.) were fifth out of the nine teams in their group and did not advance.
**Men's Team Sprint Classic Semifinals -** Alex Harvey (St. Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que.) and Devon Kershaw (Sudbury, Ont.) were sixth out of 11 teams in their group and did not advance.

**CURLING**
**Women's Semifinal -** Canada defeated Great Britain 6-4 and plays Sweden in the gold medal match on Thursday.
**Men's Semifinal -** Canada defeated China 10-6 and will face Great Britain for the gold medal on Friday.

**FIGURE SKATING**
**Ladies Short Program -** Kaetlyn Osmond (Sherwood Park, Alta.) placed 13th with 56.18 points and Gabrielle Daleman (Newmarket, Ont.) was 19th with 52.61 going into Thursday's free program.

**ICE HOCKEY**
**Men's Quarter-final -** Canada defeated Latvia 2-1 and will play the U.S. in the semifinal game on Friday.

**SNOWBOARD**
**Ladies' Parallel Giant Slalom -** Marianne Leeson (Burlington, Ont.) placed 5th overall, Caroline Calve (Aylmer, Que.) took 6th and Ariane Lavigne (Lac-Superieur, Que.) was 8th. Each lost their quarter-final race.
**Men's Parallel Giant Slalom -** Defending gold medallist Jasey Jay Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., and Matt Morison of Burketon, Ont., made it through qualifying but were eliminated in the next round. Michael Lambert of Toronto failed to made it through qualifying. Anderson placed 14th overall, Morison 15th and Lambert 27th.

**SPEED SKATING**
**Ladies' 5000 m -** Ivanie Blondon of Ottawa placed 14th overall with a time of seven minutes 20.10 seconds, 28.56 seconds behind gold medallist Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic.

### CURLING

**At Sochi, Russia**
**All Times Eastern**
**MEN**
**Wednesday's results**
**SEMIFINALS**
**Canada 10** China 6
Britain 6 Sweden 5
**Tuesday's results**
**TIEBREAKER**
Britain 6 Norway 5
**Friday's games**
**BRONZE MEDAL**
Sweden vs. China, 3:30 a.m.
**GOLD MEDAL**
Britain vs. **Canada**, 8:30 a.m.
**WOMEN**
**Wednesday's results**
**SEMIFINALS**
**Canada 6** Britain 4
Sweden 7 Switzerland 5
**Thursday's games**
**BRONZE MEDAL**
Britain vs. Switzerland, 3:30 a.m.
**GOLD MEDAL**
**Canada** vs. Sweden, 8:30 a.m.

### HOCKEY

**All times Eastern**
**MEN**
**Wednesday's results**
**QUARTERFINALS**
**Canada 2** Latvia 1
Sweden 5 Slovenia 0
Finland 3 Russia 1
United States 5 Czech Republic 2
**Friday's games**
**SEMIFINALS**
Sweden at Finland, 7 a.m.
**Canada** at United States, 12 p.m.
**Saturday's game**
**BRONZE MEDAL GAME**
Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.
**Sunday's game**
**GOLD MEDAL GAME**
Semifinal winners, 7 a.m.

#### CANADA 2, LATVIA 1

**First Period**
1. Canada, Sharp 1 (Nash) 13:37.
2. Latvia, Darzins 1 (Kulda, Sprukts) 15:41.
**Penalties** — Sharp Cda (tripping) 6:18, Keith Cda (broken stick) 16:02.
**Second Period** — No Scoring.
**Penalties** — Girgensons Lat (slashing) 5:37, St. Louis Cda (slashing) 10:21, Ozolinsh Lat (high-sticking) 19:33.
**Third Period**
3. Canada, Weber 1 (Doughty, Toews) 13:06 (pp).
**Penalties** — Pujacs Lat (slashing) 11:09.
**Shots**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Latvia | 6 | 5 | 5—16 |
| Canada | 16 | 19 | 22—57 |

**Goal** — Latvia: Gudlevskis (L); Canada: Price (W). **Power plays (goal-chances) —** Latvia: 0-3; Canada: 1-3.
**Referees** — Tim Peel, Jyri Ronn. **Linesmen** — Brad Kovachik, Sakari Suominen.
**Attendance** — 9,825 at Sochi, Russia.
**WOMEN**
**Thursday's games**
**BRONZE MEDAL GAME**
Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.
**GOLD MEDAL GAME**
**Canada** at United States, 12 p.m.

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## Horoscopes

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
There are a lot of things you need to consider, things that may be of benefit to you in the not too distant future, so don't waste your time socializing when you should be thinking.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
Aim to make new friends over the next 24 hours, especially with people whose interests are in some way out of the ordinary. It's not true that Taurus is old-fashioned. In fact, you can be a bit of a rebel.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
You will come under pressure today, especially at work where someone in a position of authority will do their best to make life miserable for you. Stay cool and don't let them provoke you.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
It is time to move on, with no regrets, no backward glances and no promises that if things don't work out you can always go back. Draw a line in the sand, step across it and embrace the new you.

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
It will pay you to be ruthless today, especially when dealing with people who always seem to get more out of your relationship than you. Look tough, talk tough and, when the time comes, act tough too.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
It may seem as if you're dancing to everyone's tune. Why is that bad? Sometimes it's nice to sit back and let others worry about where to go and what to do next.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
Stop worrying about all the little things that may or may not be going wrong and concentrate on the one big thing you would most like to go right. Focus your mind power in a single direction.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
Put your own interests first. The Sun in Pisces is giving you a boost of confidence, so make the most of it and make sure everyone knows where you are coming from and what you intend to do.

### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
As the Sun is moving through the domestic area of your chart it will pay you to focus more on family members than on yourself or your work.

### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
Let people know what is on your mind today. If you keep your thoughts to yourself you will not only feel isolated but you will miss out on a chance to influence the great debate.

### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
Limit spending to essentials today. You know how easy it is to reach into your pocket and find cash for this or that but if you do that now you may have nothing left for the weekend.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
Make the most of the Sun in your sign to do something out of the ordinary, something that makes the world sit up and take notice. Don't worry that what you do may be seen as "controversial" — the more people you offend the better.

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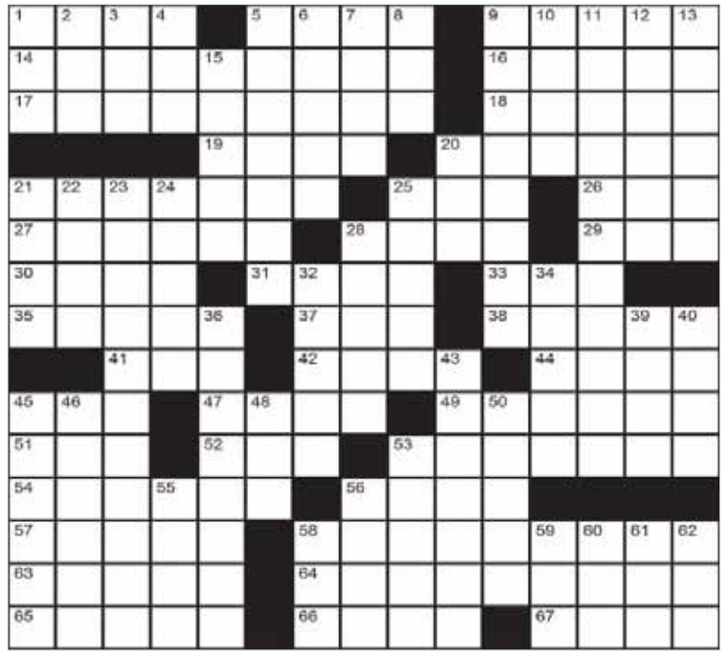
## Crossword: Canada Across and Down



See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

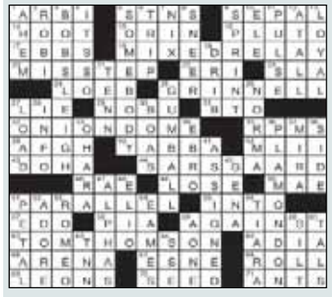
**Across**

1. SOCHI 2014 - Ice Hockey venue, Bolshoy Ice __
5. Military cap
9. Derek & The Dominos song
14. Inuit language
16. Dainty cases
17. Contemporary creation: 2 wds.
18. SOCHI 2014 - Russki __ Ski Jumping Center
19. SOCHI 2014 - 'I' of IOC [abbr.]
20. "You Needed Me" bit: "_ __ a tear..."
21. Fifty Shades of Grey novelist, _._. __
25. Ford product
26. See, in Dutch
27. Author, __ May Alcott
28. __ fide
29. Elevs.
30. 17th-century sailor, Captain __
31. Unique
33. Caesar's 1051
35. Choler
37. Fire: French
38. Canadian guitarist renowned for Mediterranean music
41. Time
42. Fruit-filled pastry
44. Singer Mr. Cruz
45. Seed holder
47. Search
49. Actor Mr. Hauer
51. Pre-afternoon hrs.
52. __ excellence
53. Go to a restaurant: 2 wds.
54. Relishes: 2 wds.
56. Examination
57. "That was _ __!" (I had fun!)
58. Body of water for Saint Petersburg, Russia: 2 wds.
63. "Do you get the birthday __ _ sent?"
64. 'We Were Born to Glory' Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
65. Shakira album: 'Donde __ los Ladrones?'
66. Formal gr.
67. Leave out

**Down**

1. Faint
2. Yoko's surname
3. Soaked soil
4. Barely get by
5. Actor Greg
6. Les __-Unis (United States, in French)
7. Knitting stitch
8. Addams Family relative
9. Painful 'pin' problem: 2 wds.
10. 'Origin' suffix
11. Doctor played by Omar Sharif: 2 wds.
12. Appreciate something: 2 wds.
13. Digressions
15. Pares
20. Sir McKellen link
21. "Hot in Cleveland" role
22. Meat cut
23. SOCHI 2014 - Figure Skating, for example: 2 wds.
24. Helpful human
25. Heart: French
28. Crack
32. Following
34. Coffee order
36. Boney M. disco hit
39. Stead
40. __ cloud, as per Astronomy
43. Soap opera star Mr. Rogers
45. Royal residence
46. "Mutual of __ Wild Kingdom"
48. The Raven writer's monogram
50. Up to
53. Quebec's flag symbol, Fleur-__-__ [var. sp.]
55. Pop
56. Artsy spot in New Mexico
58. Undergarment
59. Mountain basin
60. "...or __ _ thought."
61. Dawn goddess
62. Promos

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | | | 3 | 9 | 7 | |
| | 5 | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | |
| 4 | | | 5 | | | | | 6 |
| | | | | 5 | | | 1 | 8 |
| | | 3 | | | | 5 | | |
| 5 | 7 | | | 2 | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | 8 | | | 2 |
| | 8 | 5 | | 6 | | | 4 | |
| | 9 | 2 | 7 | | | | | 1 |

## Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 |

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. †Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Accent 4-Door L/Tucson 2.0L GL FWD MT with an annual lease rate of 3.90%/0.90%/2.90%. Bi-weekly lease payment of $159/$83/$129 for a 60 month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $2,495/$0/$1,895 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $23,165/$10,790/$18,665. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,760/$1,550/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km on all models except Genesis Sedan and Equus where additional charge is $0.25/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Lease a new 2014 Accent 4 Dr L and you'll be entitled to a $225 dealer to customer lease credit. Dealer to customer lease credit applies before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Price of models shown: 2013 Elantra Limited are $24,985. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,550, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD (HWY 7.3L/100KM; City10.2.L/100KM), Accent 4-Door L (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM), Tucson 2.0L GL FWD MT (HWY 7.2L/100KM; City 10.0L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $5,000 /$4,540 available on 2013 Sonata Hybrid/ 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †ΩOffers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.